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LEGISLATION

Province takes stand against sexual violence

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

It's never OK. That's the stand the provincial government took Tuesday as it introduced legislation to fight sexual violence.

The proposed law requires post-secondary institutions to have a "standalone" sexual violence policy, puts more onus on employers to keep workers safe and makes it easier for those in abusive relationships to end tenancy agreements.

In December, Premier Kathleen Wynne said the legislation would be pushed forward after women came forward to say they'd been sexually harassed or assaulted by former CBC radio host Jian Ghomeshi.

"These legislative proposals would put the strength of the law behind our commitment to make communities, schools, and workplaces safer," Wynne said in a statement on Tuesday.

The bill also removes the two-year statute of limitations on sexual assault cases in civil court.

"That's huge. It's a recognition that it can take a long time for survivors to even admit they've been violated," said Farrah Khan, a Toronto-based counsellor and co-chair of the provincial roundtable on violence against women. "This act coming together represents years of work by indigenous women, students and people within the anti-violence against women movement. We've asked for these changes … and now we have a government that's listening."

FLIRTING WITH THE FLU

Torontonians' horrible vaccination record putting everyone at risk metroNEWS

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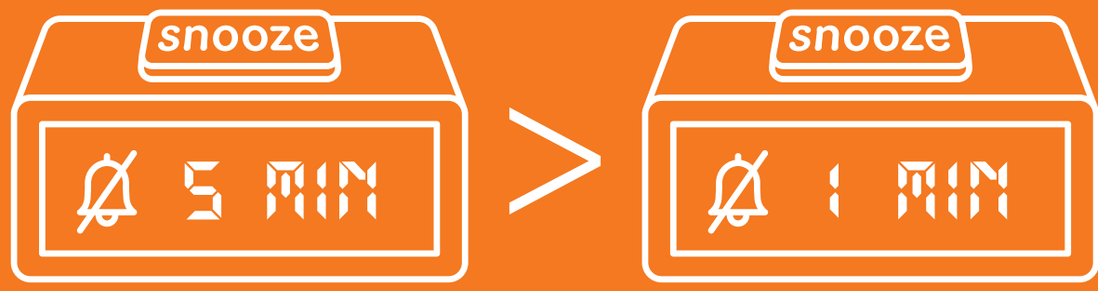

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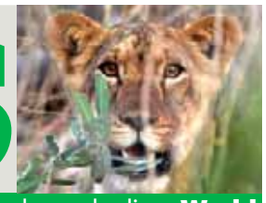

Lion populations in Central and West Africa see sharp decline. **World**

CANCER

Ford hits 'bump' in recovery: Brother

Coun. Rob Ford's family is rallying around him after a health "setback," five months after he underwent apparently successful surgery to remove a life-threatening cancerous tumour.

"It's not that it's good news or bad news," Doug Ford, his older brother, said in an interview broadcast Tuesday afternoon on Toronto radio station AM640.

"He's had a little bump in the road but nothing that we can't get over, and I'm sure Rob will be talking about it in the next day or so."

The elder added his brother is a fighter "and we appreciate all the thoughts and all the prayers that come our way every day, and just keep them coming, because we need them."

Ford was diagnosed in September 2014 with pleomorphic liposarcoma, a rare and aggressive cancer of connective tissues.

He was forced to abandon an uphill mayoral re-election bid, but Ward 2 Etobicoke North voters returned him to the council seat he had held for a decade before his scandal-filled mayoral term.

After months of chemotherapy and radiation, Ford underwent a 10-hour operation at Mount Sinai Hospital on May 11. His aide, Dan Jacobs, told reporters that doctors deemed the surgery a success, with no new growths or cancer spread discovered while a surgical team removed the five-centimetre tumour.

After release from hospital, Ford defied doctors' orders to go straight home, making a pit stop at city hall, where he told reporters recovery from two large incisions was painful but he was happy to be, apparently, cancer-free.

The five-year survival rate for pleomorphic liposarcoma is 56 per cent, according to the Liddy Shriver Sarcoma Initiative, based in Ossining, N.Y. The rate drops to 39 per cent at the 10-year mark.

Last fall, Dr. Walter Longo, chief of gastrointestinal surgery at Yale University, told Torstar News Service, of someone in Ford's position, "If they can get all the disease out surgically ... he'll have about a 50/50 chance of beating it."

Ford returned to work, including city council and committee meetings, in the summer after his office said doctors were so pleased with his recovery that he could start back before the originally scheduled September date.

The Ward 2 Etobicoke North councillor, clean after his famous battles with drugs and alcohol and intent on mounting a mayoral campaign comeback in 2018, has appeared healthy. He has been wearing a track suit to accommodate an abdominal binding and drain that are part of the healing process.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Coun. Rob Ford
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Family photo worse than Duffy trial: Poll

ELECTION 2015

Controversial pic pushed swing voters away from PM

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

The Ford brothers' cameo in Stephen Harper's election campaign drove potential voters away from the Conservative Party more than the Duffy trial did, exit polling has found.

"It was clearly a mistake to be seen with the Fords," pollster Greg Lyle told Metro on Tuesday. "It didn't really rally the base, it pushed away swing voters. Not a good move."

His firm, Innovative Research, conducted polling over the four days following the election, asking voters if certain factors in each party's campaign made them more or less likely to lend their support.

Using a formula, the firm assigned each factor a net score. The more positive the number, the better that issue played with voters and vice versa, Lyle explained.

The poll also identified each party's set of swing supporters — the voters who'd been on the fence before Election Day.

Among the Conservative's swing voters, Harper's appearance at an Oct. 17 event organized by Rob and Doug Ford earned a net score of -33 per cent. It proved the most overwhelmingly negative factor for swing voters regardless of issue or party.

The Duffy trial scored -30 per cent.

Lyle said the information should discourage politicians from buddying up with the Fords in the future. But, he's not sure how closely they'll take heed.

"It's pretty clear the Ford brothers are the third rail of Canadian politics right now. But they never quit, I mean they just keep coming," he said.

This image of the Fords with Stephen Harper was circulated on social media after the Conservative rally days before the federal election. CONTRIBUTED

The Conservatives had a string of negative scores on the major factors in their campaign, boosting the argument they ran a poor campaign.

"Harper's campaigning" itself was a net negative for swing voters (-11 per cent), as was the "Conservatives' advertising" (-26 per cent).

The party's niqab stance was a net positive (23 per cent). The promise to introduce a "barbaric cultural practices" tip line, however, tipped negative (-2 per cent).

"That divided swing voters," Lyle said about the tip line.

The Liberal Party, meanwhile, had only positives scores.

The promised "tax cuts for middle class/increase for high earners" earned a 56 per cent, followed closely by "Trudeau's campaign" (55 per cent) and "Trudeau's debate performance" (51 per cent).

As for the NDP, its plan to raise corporate taxes was the most positive factor among its swing voters (47 per cent), while the only negative was the party's place in the polls (-8% per cent).

COLLISION

Three killed in Highway 404 crash

At least three people are dead following a collision on Highway 404 in Whitchurch-Stouffville during rush hour Tuesday.

The collision occurred north of Stouffville Road just before 5 p.m. OPP Sgt. Kerry Schmidt said a southbound Ford Fusion crossed the highway and struck a northbound Toyota Camry, killing the three occupants.

Paramedics transported the male driver of the Fusion to a Toronto trauma centre.

The victims' identities have not been released.

OPP shut down the highway's northbound lanes from Elgin Mills Road to Stouffville Road for several hours for the investigation.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

QUEEN'S PARK

Ontario eyes municipal land transfer tax

The Liberal government is not ruling out giving all Ontario municipalities the option to impose a local land transfer tax like the one Toronto already has, adding several thousand dollars to the cost of a home.

"I am not ruling anything out, absolutely not," Municipal Affairs Minister Ted McMeekin said on Tuesday.

That municipal tax would be over and above the provincial land transfer tax.

McMeekin said everything is on the table as cash-starved municipalities cast about for ways to raise money as part of consultations being held regarding proposed changes to the Ontario Municipal Act.

"They are not specifically asking for any new tools (for raising money). Questions arise as to why Toronto has certain revenue tools the rest of us don't have," McMeekin said.

"I have said whatever revenue tools may ... be granted, would only be done so on an optional basis ... but we have made no decision on that at this point," he said.

The purchaser of a Toronto home selling for $450,000 will pay a total of $10,200 in land transfer tax — $5,475 to the province and $4,725 to city.

The Ontario Real Estate Association (OREA) is encouraging the government to think long and hard before giving municipalities additional taxing powers.

"Ontario home buyers are already charged a provincial land transfer tax, so by adding a municipal tax, they're essentially doubling the tax burden on Ontario families," Patricia Verge, president of OREA, said in a statement.

McMeekin said he hopes to introduce changes to the Municipal Act in the 2016 spring session of the legislature.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Coalition wants Liberals to end permit restrictions

MIGRANT WORKERS

'Current laws allow for exploitation': Coordinator

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

When Mariyah Fitriyanti decided to move to Toronto in 2011, she was convinced it was the first step towards a better life for her and her family. So, she signed contract as a live-in caregiver, secured a migrant work permit and left her 12-year-old daughter and her husband in Indonesia in pursuit of greener pastures.

Four years later, she says Canada hasn't lived up to her expectations.

"I was working from six in the morning until six at night everyday," she said, reflecting on years she spent tied to a work permit that forbid her from looking for another job.

Her contract stipulated she'd be working 40 hours a week and earning $10.56 per hour, but during her first few years as a caregiver she said she was working 60 hours a week and earning only $1,200 a month.

Now on an open work permit, Fitriyanti is part of a coalition of migrant workers advocating on behalf of thousands more living in the same conditions.

The coalition is launching a national movement calling on the new Liberal government to end the restrictions on migrant workers' permits.

CMWRC
Coalition for Migrant Worker Rights Canada
CDTTMC
Coalition pour les Droits des travailleurs et travailleuses migrantEs du Canada
A STRONG VOICE

Mariyah Fitriyanti is one of the migrant workers calling for the changes on their work permits. She'll speak at Wednesday's event in Toronto. CONTRIBUTED

As it stands now, temporary foreign workers come to Canada with the ability to work only for the employers listed on their permits.

Syed Hussan, coordinator for Migrant Workers Alliance for Change, said the restrictions have allowed bad bosses to mistreat workers by arbitrarily lowering salaries and neglecting working conditions.

"Some people like in agriculture or as live-in caregivers are working 70 hours a week with no overtime, no vacation and on low wages," Hussan said. "The current laws allow for abuse and exploitation. That must stop."

The coalition is asking prime minister-designate Justin Trudeau to enforce a transition from tied work permits to open work permits.

They'd also like to see policies allowing migrant workers to get permanent resident status upon arrival.

That would allow people like Fitriyanti to be reunited with their families.

"We are raising Canadians' kids, and we want to be able to raise our own kids too," she said, adding she's already applied for her husband and daughter to join her.

"Family is important and it is not easy to be away from them."

176,000

There were more than 176,000 migrant work permit holders in Canada in 2013...

25,000

... nearly 25,000 were live-in caregivers, ...

40,000

... 40,000 of them worked in agriculture.
Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

TRIAL

Forcillo was 4.5 metres from Yatim when he took shot

Sammy Yatim was standing 4.906 metres away from Const. James Forcillo before he took a step towards the front of the streetcar.

He was 4.541 metres away from Forcillo when the officer fired his first shot after telling Yatim that if he took another step, he'd shoot.

From the point of Forcillo's police-issued Glock to Yatim, it was 3.706 metres.

The trial has heard Forcillo shot Yatim eight times as the 18-year-old was at the front of an empty streetcar holding a four-inch switchblade.

Forcillo is now on trial for second-degree murder and attempted murder. He has pleaded not guilty to both charges.

Chad Seymour, 31, (left) looks to Sammy Yatim (right) at the top of the TTC car stairs as he wields a knife. SCREENSHOT

The distances between Yatim and Forcillo — measured torso to torso and accounting for elevation — come from a 3D computer model meticulously constructed from scanning the crime scene using lasers.

Using the videos of the shooting, expert Eugenio Liscio testified that Yatim moved about 50 centimetres before he was shot. At his average speed of .357 metres per second, it would have taken him just over 11 seconds to reach Forcillo — but Liscio noted that he could not tell if Yatim was accelerating or decelerating or what his speed at the moment of the shooting was.

The defence suggested earlier in the day that Yatim could have covered that distance in less than two seconds — a key part of establishing how much of a threat Yatim posed to Forcillo. The jury also heard more from the TTC driver who remained on the streetcar with Yatim on July 26, 2013, until police arrived.

Chad Seymour testified on Monday that he had a conversation with Yatim, who asked to use a phone to call his dad. Seymour reassured Yatim that everything would be OK and suggested he sit down.

Seymour testified Tuesday that he felt he was in an extremely frightening and dangerous situation. Under cross-examination by Forcillo's lawyer, Peter Brauti, Seymour said he'd thought Yatim might be high.

"He seemed like he was in a daze," Seymour said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TRANSIT

Brampton debates LRT route

A night of drama in Brampton, in the fitting setting of the Rose Theatre, where residents packed the house Tuesday night to plead with councillors for and against a provincially approved LRT route up the city's centre.

"It's baffling to me that we are actually considering saying no," said Nikita Brown, referring to the $300 million to $400 million committed by the province to Brampton's share of the $1.6-billion Hurontario-Main LRT project.

Almost 500 people turned out for the debate, which was held at the city's downtown theatre to accommodate a crowd that couldn't fit into Brampton City Hall's council chamber.

Brampton Board of Trade chair Jaipaul Massey-Singh said he does not want the city to have "the moniker of the only municipality in Ontario to turn down transit funding," while NDP MPP Jagmeet Singh said the LRT plan "is good for the city," and it's not just the Liberal government that supports it. Almost 60 people were scheduled to address council on an issue that has divided the city over the past five months.

Some opponents of the Main St. route, such as Gloria Berger, repeated several councillors' contention that the route simply doesn't have the potential ridership to support an LRT.

"The studies we have commissioned do not support an LRT through downtown Brampton," she said, questioning why the city wasn't demanding that Queen's Park support a route that better suits the city. She suggested Mayor Linda Jeffrey, a former provincial Liberal cabinet minister, has been doing the bidding of the government she used to be a part of. Jeffrey supports the route and has warned in the past that turning it down might mean also leaving $300 million in provincial funds on the table.

"Whose agenda is this?" Berger asked, adding that council should demand that the committed funds "be used for an alternative route."

Jeffrey herself left an opening for alternatives during a break in the debate, when she told reporters who asked whether she'd be willing to work with councillors on an alternative if they rejected the route, replied: "I'm flexible."

The experience of Toronto and other municipalities that have turned their back on Metrolinx plans is that the province has proved willing to transfer funding to alternative projects.

Paul Brennan, vice president of Coca-Cola Refreshments Canada, with a large presence in Brampton, told the meeting he supports the Main St. route.

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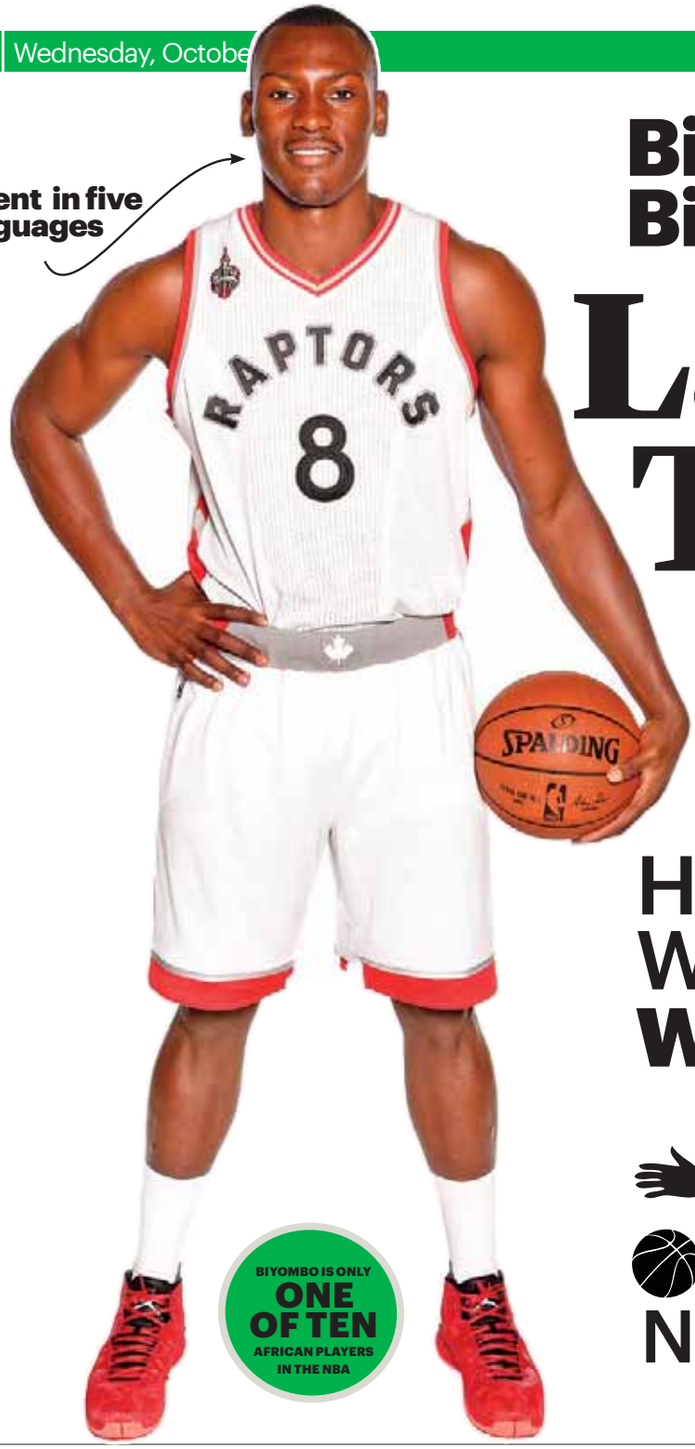
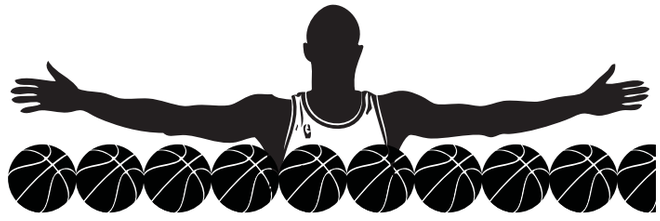


Fluent in five languages

BIYOMBO IS ONLY ONE OF TEN AFRICAN PLAYERS IN THE NBA

Height 6' 9"
Weight 245 lbs.
Wingspan 7' 7"



NINE AND A HALF BASKETBALLS

Ready to take flight

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

There'll be several new faces on the court when the Raptors kick off their season tonight in Toronto.

But there's one guy no one will be able to overlook. Bismack Biyombo is, literally, one of the biggest pickups the Raps made during the off-season.

The 23-year-old is already being hailed as the team's new "rim protector."

And, with these stats, it's easy to see why he's likely to become a huge — make that gigantic — fan favourite.

Wingspan

Biyombo's seven-foot-seven wingspan is one of his biggest weapons on court. To put it into perspective, that is Yao Ming — once the tallest player in the NBA — from foot to hair. Toronto's tallest player, Jonas Valanciunas, wouldn't come close to filling that length.

Size

Six-foot-nine, 245 pounds.

Salary

The Toronto Raptors signed Biyombo to a two-year, $6-million contract, a deal that puts his salary in the middle of the pack. The highest-paid Raptor, DeMarre Carroll, makes more than $13 million a year.

Record

As a member of the World Select Team for the 2011 Nike Hoop Summit, Biyombo recorded the only triple-double in the game's history — 12 points, 11 rebounds and 10 blocks.

Personal

Born and raised in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Biyombo has three brothers and three sisters and fluently speaks five languages — French, English, Spanish, Swahili and Lingala.

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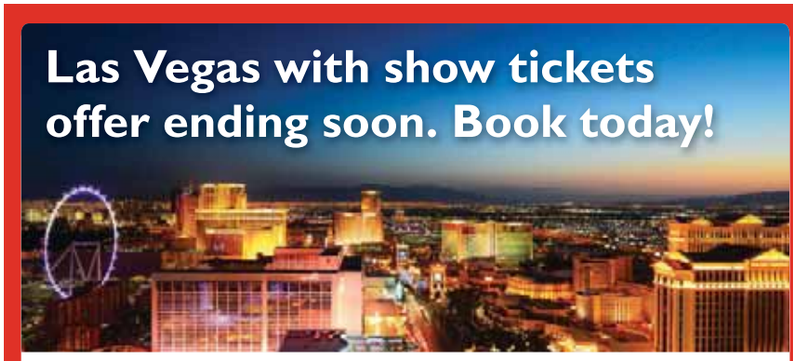

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Eric Morgan has filed a complaint to the Office of the Independent Police Review Director, and is suing Peel police and officers involved in his case for $25 million. MARTA IWANEK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Police watchdog denies misconduct

LAW AND ORDER

Erin Morgan disappointed in result, says 'it's so clear'

The province's police watchdog has found insufficient evidence of misconduct by the Peel Regional Police detectives who employed what an Ontario Superior court judge called "aggressive and abusive" tactics and "leading" questioning to obtain evidence in a murder case.

The Office of the Independent Police Review Director (OIPRD) will not charge any of the Peel detectives involved in the case of Eric Morgan, the Brampton man acquitted of second-degree murder in the death of Mervyn Spence after two murder trials and more than three years in jail while his case was before the court.

Morgan, living in Brampton, is deeply disappointed.

"I don't know what other evidence they needed. It's so clear," he said.

Superior Court Justice Fletcher Dawson, who presided over Morgan's retrial in November 2013, highlighted what he viewed as problematic police actions used during interviews with key witnesses, including "improper threats and overly aggressive and abusive tactics."

In one case, Dawson said one witness was "psychologically broken down" after an eight-hour "relentless onslaught" by Peel police. Under repeated threat of being charged with crime if he did not change his account, the witness recanted testimony that supported Morgan's innocence, a story change Dawson called "the direct result of threatening and oppressive police conduct."

But an investigation by the OIPRD — which included interviews with the officers, their superiors and some witnesses, as well as reviews of videos depicting the witness interviews in question — found the "tactics used to pressure the various witnesses were consistent with their training," according to the investigative report.

> **"I don't know what other evidence they needed.**
> Eric Morgan

The forceful questioning employed by Peel officers is sometimes referred to as the Reid technique of police interrogation, a controversial interview tactic typically used on suspects to assess guilt or produce confessions, not on witnesses providing information.

The OIPRD investigation found only one of the officers connected to the case had any training in the Reid technique, and that officer's involvement was limited to one interview that Dawson said was conducted in a fair manner. None of the officers said they were employing the Reid technique during the interviews.

Morgan filed a $25-million lawsuit against the Peel Police Services Board, the former police chief and five police officers, including Peel Det. Thomas Doherty, who led the investigation. No statement of defence in the case has yet been filed, according to Morgan's lawyers.

Spence was gunned down on Nov. 4, 2006, outside Malibu Marie's nightclub in Brampton, after attending a party thrown by Morgan to celebrate his own 39th birthday. More than three years later, Morgan was arrested and charged with the second-degree murder of Spence, a casual acquaintance.

The charge was based on two witness interviews; no physical evidence linked him to the crime and no motive was ever provided by the Crown.

Morgan's first trial, before Justice Nancy Mossip, resulted in a hung jury after one a witness recanted her identification of Morgan as the murderer. That witness named Morgan as the shooter in one of the interviews Dawson found problematic.

But the OIPRD investigators gave significant weight to the fact that Mossip didn't raise any concerns about the police tactics in the case.

"One judge ruled that the methods were proper and a second judge disagreed," the OIPRD report states.

David Shulman, one of Morgan's lawyers, said the two views do not cancel each other out, because Mossip did not view all of the video of Peel's interviews.

Dawson, the second judge, did view them, and twice noted they needed to be watched to appreciate the police tactics used and the pressure witnesses were under. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Toronto sniffs at flu shots

IMMUNITY

City's vaccination rate in decline since 2005

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Next time you're packed into a subway car with a bunch of coughing commuters, you can take discomfort in the fact Torontonians lag behind the rest of the country when it comes to getting their flu shots.

After peaking at a high of 40 per cent in 2005, the influenza vaccination rate in Toronto plunged to 30 per cent in 2013-14, according to Statistics Canada numbers released Tuesday.

Ontario is the only province where flu shot rates have gone down in recent years. In fact, only residents of Newfoundland and Quebec were less likely to get vaccinated than Ontarians.

That's a problem in a dense city like Toronto, said Dr. Jonathan Gubbay with Public Health Ontario.

The city will launch its flu shot campaign at 1 p.m. Wednesday at the Atrium (595 Bay St.). Vaccination is offered free of charge. Check toronto.ca for details. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

"There are many ways influenza is transmitted and one of them is direct contact," he said. "In a place like Toronto, there are more opportunities for close contact through public transit, for example."

The flu pandemic of 2009 may have caused some people to become "skeptical" about the flu vaccine, Gubbay said, noting that situation was due more to timing than the efficacy of the shot.

Toronto's associate medical officer of health, Dr. Christine Navarro, said the city's low vaccination rates mean vulnerable populations — young children, the elderly and those with chronic conditions — are at higher risk of contracting the flu.

In such cases, the disease can cause pneumonia or even death, she said.

"And there are consequences to getting ill in addition to spreading it to vulnerable people," Navarro said. "It's a productivity issue. It's a big deal when people have to miss three, four or five days of work."

Toronto Public Health recommends everyone older than five get a flu shot. This year, the city has made the vaccine available for free at nine community clinics and 450 pharmacies.

"Vaccination is the best tool we have to protect against the flu," Navarro said.

HEALTH

Winter is coming

Dr. Jonathan Gubbay with Public Health Ontario says influenza cases have begun to be reported across the province, but warned flu season hasn't landed yet.

There's no way to predict when it will, but Gubbay and his colleagues are closely monitoring everything from lab results to hospital visits. METRO

IN BRIEF

Vehicles hit police cars at Jane and Finch, twice

Two people have been charged with impaired driving after separate collisions involving police cruisers near Finch Avenue and Jane Street overnight.

A 2001 Acura rear-ended a police cruiser at Finch Avenue and Tobermory Drive around midnight. Two officers were sent to the hospital with minor injuries, while a civilian was rushed to a trauma centre in critical condition.

Then at around 2:35 a.m., police reported a second collision involving a vehicle and a one of their cars. That cruiser was blocking the road at Finch and Sentinel for the investigation a block away of the first collision. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Arrest made after stolen truck strikes cruisers

A man is in custody after a stolen truck hit two police cruisers in the eastbound lanes of Highway 401 near Mississauga Road Tuesday morning.

The truck had been reported stolen in Waterloo Region. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Drop-ins may open 24/7

HOMELESSNESS

Councillors to weigh new winter hours for centres

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Toronto has fast-tracked a proposal that would make drop-in centres available around the clock during January and February.

Councillors will consider the move, already endorsed by the board of health as a way to help homeless people avoid the cold, when they meet next week. The plan was originally set to roll out in 2017.

Traditionally, the city only opens its two drop-in centres around the clock when the medical officer of health calls an extreme weather alert — prompted when the temperature is expected to hit or fall below -15 C.

Coun. Joe Cressy, who led the push for 24-hour centres sooner rather than later, said the existing practice isn't good enough.

"Whether it's minus one or minus 15, it is still very dangerous out there on the streets," he said. "There were three deaths last year due to the cold, and a single death is too many."

The city issued 39 extreme weather alerts last year, with most coming in January and February. Funding for the 24/7 drop-in service will come from existing budgets, Cressy said.

The need, he said, is a reminder that Toronto still faces challenges of poverty and growing inequality.

"Shelter services are already over capacity, and we have 5,000 homeless people on our streets," Cressy said.

> **There were three deaths last year due to the cold, and a single death is too many**
> Coun. Joe Cressy

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The deaths of three homeless people, including one at the corner of Yonge and Dundas Streets during last year's cold snap, prompted anger directed at city hall. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

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UNION PAYOUTS

Tories want probe by auditor general

Ontario's Progressive Conservatives plan to ask the auditor general to look into $3.74 million the government paid unions representing teachers and education workers over the past three rounds of bargaining.

Tory MPP Lisa MacLeod will introduce a notice of motion Wednesday at the public accounts committee, of which she is vice-chair, asking the auditor general to investigate those payments as well as $4.6 million that is being paid to school boards for their bargaining costs.

But the Liberals have a majority on the committee, which means they could easily block the motion.

MacLeod, though, is hopeful because the Liberals previously agreed to a motion asking Auditor-General Bonnie Lysyk for a Pan Am Games audit.

"A sum of money this large going undocumented to some public-sector unions who ran attack ads — it doesn't look good," said MacLeod, referring to anti-Tory advertising during the last provincial election.

"I think it would be important that the auditor review those numbers and make sure the money wasn't misappropriated, although I believe it has been.''

Education Minister Liz Sandals has defended the payments as being necessary because the transition to a new bargaining system made this round quite lengthy.

And the ministry has said it was appropriate to make similar payments in 2008 and 2012 to three education unions because it involved voluntary discussions that were a precursor to the new system.

Sandals said she is not at all concerned about a possible auditor-general investigation.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tory MPP Lisa MacLeod
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ROOTS

Buyout to create buzz

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

The sale of a majority stake in Toronto-based Roots Canada to an international private equity firm will help spread Canadiana around the world, one expert says.

David Soberman, a marketing professor at University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management, said Roots has become associated with Canadian Olympic gear. Otherwise, it's been very dormant.

"One of the things that brands need to do is create excitement from time to time," Soberman said.

The acquisition by Searchlight Capital is expected to help create that excitement. Exactly how that will happen remains to be seen. Officials with Roots declined interviews Tuesday, the day after the sale was announced.

However, having the brand squarely associated with Canada works in the company's favour, Soberman said.

"Canada's image worldwide is pretty good," he said. "We're non-threatening and seen as welcoming, these are positives, and we have this image of being quite natural and wildlife and all that — those are things that people like."

Even though Searchlight Capital is an international company, Roots will remain based here and its brand is expected to remain much the same.

"Brands are really created through their heritage and the experience people have with them," said Soberman. "If you get successful enough and others want to buy you or buy what you are, that's actually a vote of confidence."

IN BRIEF

Crown to decide if it will pursue Fantino case

The Crown attorney has intervened in the case of private assault charges laid against ex-federal cabinet minister Julian Fantino stemming from an incident that allegedly occurred more than 40 years ago when he was a police officer. Fantino's lawyer Mark Sandler says his client will defend the charges and the Crown will now decide if there is a reasonable prospect of conviction and if it's in the public interest to proceed. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Questions over threats to schools

SAFETY

Lack of stats leaves public, administrators in the dark

A spate of lockdowns in GTA schools has raised questions about whether security incidents are rising.

But not all boards track lockdowns, and the lack of data makes it difficult to discern whether, or why, there has been a rise in threats — or hoaxes.

Of 10 school boards surveyed by Torstar News Service, five said they tracked both lockdowns and hold-and-secures; one said it tracks only lockdowns; four tracked neither.

School safety advocates say Ontario needs comprehensive statistics. "When you're not tracking it, you don't see where there are gaps … You have to have the information to be able to deal with something," said Stu Auty, president of the Canadian Safe Schools Network.

Police received calls on Tuesday about a person with a weapon at a Mississauga Secondary School and Brampton Centennial Secondary School — the second day in a row for such a call. A lockdown also occurred at David Suzuki Secondary School in Brampton; it was lifted after police detained two young offenders with a "replica hand gun."

The incidents come after a stabbing at a North York high school in September and hoaxes in May that sent five Peel schools into lockdown or hold-and-secure mode.

> **It just makes good common sense that this kind of information should be tracked and shared.**
> Charles Pascal, OISE prof

Whenever a threat happens in the vicinity of a school, but not very near, it triggers a hold-and-secure procedure: all outer doors are locked and no one may enter or leave, but classes and activities go on as usual.

Not all hold-and-secure procedures are security-related. Janine Bowyer, safe schools superintendent for the Durham Catholic District School Board, said they can be ordered for events such as a medical incident or an upset student.

If a threat is serious or very near or inside the school, it will trigger a lockdown. All doors are locked, and students are kept in classrooms. Depending on the lockdown protocol at that particular school, students might be told to move away from windows, and cellphone use may be restricted.

Charles Pascal, former Ontario deputy education minister and professor at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, said school boards should be tracking and disclosing lockdowns. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

JUST FOR KICKS TFC CELEBRATES 1ST MLS PLAYOFF APPEARANCE
A soccer freestyler performs for a crowd of Toronto Football Club fans at First Canadian Place on Tuesday, while Danny Dichio, head coach of the Toronto FC Academy speaks at the celebratory event, right. Kickoff for the Conference Knockout Round match against the Montreal Impact is set for 7 p.m. Thursday in Saputo Stadium, Montreal.
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Logistics defy refugee vow

Each day this week, Metro is taking an in-depth look at some of the immediate items on prime minister-designate Justin Trudeau's to-do list. Today, we examine his promise to bring 25,000 government-sponsored Syrian refugees to Canada by year-end.

Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

When the Syrian refugee crisis seized the federal election campaign in early September, Justin Trudeau's proposal was arguably the most ambitious of the party leaders: He promised the Liberals would bring 25,000 government-sponsored Syrian refugees to Canada by the end of the year.

Refugee experts and advocates now say while that target is laudable, resettling them all by the end of the year would be logistically difficult.

"We don't think the government should get too hung up on making sure that it happens by the end of the year," said Janet Dench, executive director of the Canadian Council for Refugees. "It's better to take a few extra weeks and get it right than to rush just to meet an arbitrary deadline."

The Syrian conflict has displaced 11 million people since 2011, 4 million of which have fled beyond Syria's borders.

Refugees who came from Croatia wait in the border town of Rigonce, Slovenia, on Tuesday. Many are seeking higher living standards away from conflict cross the Croatia-Slovenia border on their way into Europe. STIPE MAYIC/ANADOLU AGENCY/GETTY IMAGES

Trudeau PROMISES TRACKER

PART III

- GENDER PARITY
- TAXATION
- REFUGEES
- CLIMATE
- INDIGENOUS WOMEN

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, upon which Canada relies for refugee referrals, is overwhelmed by applications and hasn't been able to refer refugees to Canada in significant numbers.

Once refugees are referred to Canadian authorities, they have to go through criminal, medical and security checks.

Then there's the matter of actually bringing them here.

Transportation arrangements, reception, accommodations, English or French lessons, bank accounts — all this work is done through the co-ordination of various levels of government, non-government organizations and community groups.

Upping Canada's intake can be done faster, but it shouldn't be rushed to meet a year-end deadline, experts said.

"We have really expert people on the ground that can do all this, but they need some lead time," said Naomi Alboim, chair of the Policy Forum at Queen's University's School of Policy Studies, and a former Ontario deputy minister of immigration. "A matter of weeks is not sufficient lead time to turn an operation like this on a dime."

Alboim helped oversee Canada's resettlement of Indochinese boat people over two years in 1979 and 1980. That well co-ordinated effort saw Canada take in 60,000 people over two years.

The Syrian crisis presents new challenges. For example, the Indochinese refugees were mostly in camps. But most Syrian refugees aren't in camps and are thus harder to find and process.

"The Syrians are living in fields and barns and basements, and there's no organizational infrastructure for the refugees, and some environments are not terribly secure," Alboim said. "A visa officer can't walk down the street and say, 'Any Syrian refugees want to come to Canada? Line up here.'"

The Canadian Council for Refugees, in an open letter to Trudeau, recommended he convene a national meeting involving all orders of government and other groups to plan Canada's resettlement of Syrian refugees. It also asked him to introduce flexible measures, such as temporary resident permits, for Syrians with family already in Canada.

Instead of processing them overseas, "it's basically an evacuation program. You just bring them to Canada and you do the processing here if they wish to apply for permanent residence," Dench said.

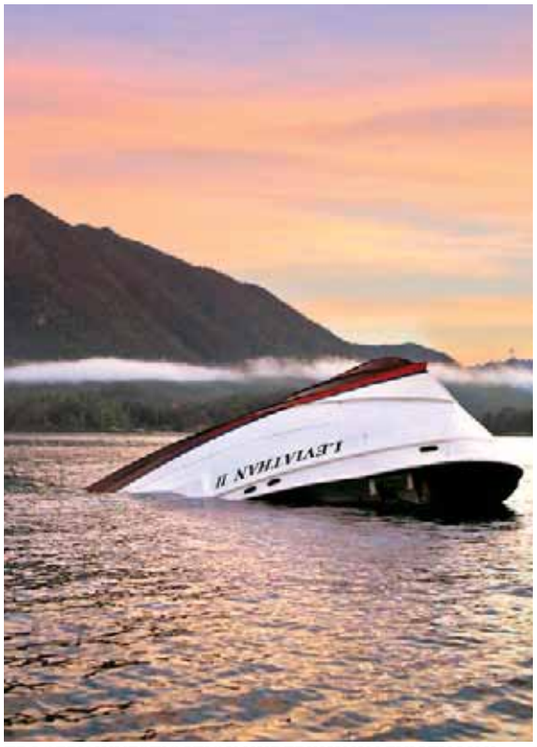
Measures the Conservative government took during the campaign will also make a difference. Syrians and Iraqis fleeing conflict no longer have to prove they're refugees under UN rules, but will be presumed to be refugees by Canadian authorities.

"That will expedite the process very significantly," Alboim said.

She added that Canada has also increased the number of visa officers in Beirut to 15 and has appointed two well-respected, veteran bureaucrats to co-ordinate the process in the civil service.

No one is suggesting we should put aside security in order to (bring in refugees).

Prime minister-designate Justin Trudeau, in Halifax in September



TRAGEDY INVESTIGATION UNDERWAY IN LEVIATHAN II CAPSIZING Jamie's Whaling Station said it will work closely with the Transportation Safety Board "to determine exactly what has happened and to assist with their investigation in any way we can." CHAD HIPOLITO/THE CANADIAN PRESS

ALBERTA

NDP reveals budget, $36B debt by 2018

Alberta's NDP government will forge ahead building schools and hospitals and hiring more teachers and nurses, but the devastating impact of low oil prices has it planning to borrow money just to keep the lights on.

There's money earmarked in Tuesday's provincial budget to reduce school fees, start a school nutrition program and deliver a new child benefit for low-income families.

There's also cash to provide employers with grants of up to $5,000 for each new job created over the next two years and an extra $1.5 billion to improve access to capital for small- and medium-sized businesses.

Much of the spending is being underwritten by record debt, which is pegged to reach $36.6 billion by 2018. And starting next year, the province plans to borrow money to pay not just for capital projects as it has in the past, but for day-to-day programs as well.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trudeau and Wynne are together again

LEGISLATURE

Canada Pension Plan, climate change discussed

Justin Trudeau was greeted like a rock star as he arrived at the Ontario legislature Tuesday for a meeting with Premier Kathleen Wynne, and rewarded her campaign efforts on his behalf with a promise of federal help for a provincial pension plan.

Wynne, one of Trudeau's most ardent supporters during the federal campaign, gave the prime minister-designate a big hug as he stepped out of his car while virtually the entire Liberal cabinet and hundreds of Liberal staffers applauded and cheered.

Trudeau and Wynne met for only a half hour in her office.

After the meeting, Wynne's office issued a statement saying she and Trudeau would be "active partners" in a national discussion on pension enhancement, including the Canada Pension Plan and the Ontario Retirement Pension Plan.

"Once it takes office, the incoming federal government will direct the Canada Revenue Agency and the Departments of Finance and National Revenue to work with Ontario officials on the registration and administration of the ORPP," it said. "The ORPP is being designed to integrate with any future CPP enhancement."

That's a major reversal of the position taken by outgoing Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who said he "delighted" in refusing all federal co-operation with the ORPP, something he described as a job-killing payroll tax. It also means Ontario will get the same federal assistance on its pension as Ottawa gives Quebec and Saskatchewan.

Wynne has said Ontario will plan to start payroll deductions for the ORPP on Jan. 1, 2017 unless and until there is agreement to enhance the CPP. She added that the only reason the provincial pension was conceived in the first place was due to Harper's flat refusal to look at increasing deductions and benefits under the CPP.

As he dashed away after the meeting, Trudeau said he and Wynne had "just a great conversation on a range of issues"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Premier Kathleen Wynne joins prime minister-designate Justin Trudeau for an election rally in Toronto on Aug. 17. LUCAS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

> **We look forward to a new and positive relationship ... based on mutual respect, common goals and shared values.**
>
> Joint statement from
> Justin Trudeau and Kathleen Wynne

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IN BRIEF

Deer walks into hospital ER after being hit by a car
A deer apparently hit by a car brought itself to a Rochester, N.Y. hospital. The deer walked through the automatic doors at the entrance to Strong Memorial Hospital's emergency room late Monday afternoon and made it 20 feet down a corridor before being corralled. Two sheriff's deputies happened to be there and with hospital public safety officers, strapped the deer to a gurney and wheeled it out to the parking lot. One of the deputies put down the deer. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police pull over hearse, find coffin full of caviar
Police in Russia's far east stopped a speeding hearse — to find half a ton of caviar stashed inside, hidden under the wreaths lying next to a casket and inside the otherwise empty casket. The driver and his partner told police they'd been hired by a man allegedly to take the casket with the body of a female relative to a city morgue. Police are considering charges for illegal production and distribution of caviar, which is strictly regulated in Russia. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

German condom company in court for orgasm claim
A German condom manufacturer has run into legal trouble with a claim that a packet of seven of its products "corresponds to up to 21 orgasms." Berlin company Einhorn asked a court in Duesseldorf to overturn an injunction obtained by a German rival, Fair Squared, barring it from using the claim. Einhorn lawyers argued it was a joke but presiding Judge Johanna Brueckner-Hofmann said the slogan is "suited to deception" and could tempt people to use condoms several times. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Witch charges warlock with harassment
Lori Sforza, 75, who runs a Salem, Mass., witchcraft shop and leads a pagan church, filed for court-ordered protection against harassment from former business partner Christian Day, 45, whose website calls him the "world's best-known warlock." Sforza accused Day of harassing her online and by phone. A judge is scheduled to hear the case on Wednesday to decide whether Sforza's allegations amount to harassment and if she needs court protection. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rescuers, relief workers head for quake-hit zones

AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN

Responders go on foot to most remote areas as toll rises

As the death toll in the massive earthquake that struck the remote Hindu Kush mountains soared above 300, officials on both sides of the Afghan-Pakistan border warned on Tuesday that casualty figures will likely leap once relief workers return from villages so remote they can only be accessed on foot or by donkey.

Rescuers in both countries were struggling to reach quake-stricken regions as officials said the combined death toll from Monday's earthquake rose to 376.

Authorities said 258 people died in Pakistan and 115 in Afghanistan in the magnitude-7.5 quake, which was centred in Afghanistan's sparsely populated Badakhshan province that borders Pakistan, Tajikistan and China. Three people died on the Indian side of the disputed region of Kashmir.

The earthquake, with its epicentre close to the Badakhshan district of Jarm, damaged many of the few existing roads, officials said. Dropping aid by air will be the only way to reach many of the needy, but those operations were not likely to start for many days until survey teams on foot return and report on the damage.

The Pakistani town closest to the epicentre is Chitral.

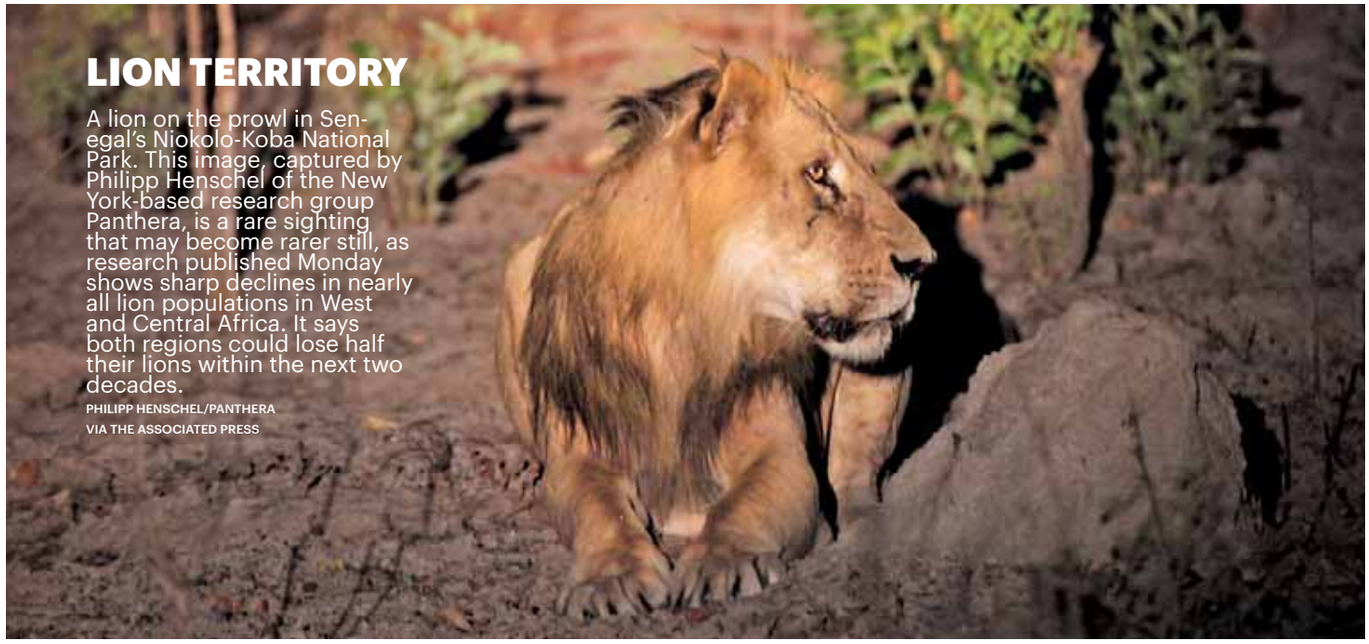
Monday's quake shook buildings in the capital, Islamabad, and cities elsewhere in Pakistan and Afghanistan for up to 45 seconds in the early afternoon, creating cracks in walls and causing blackouts.

The earthquake destroyed more than 7,600 homes across Afghanistan and injured 558 people. Badakhshan Gov. Shah Waliullah Adeeb said more than 1,500 houses there were either destroyed or partially destroyed.

Food and other essentials were ready to go, he said, but "getting there is not easy." Many people were sleeping outdoors, braving freezing temperatures for fear of aftershocks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SUPPLY LINE

Pakistan opens highway
Military engineers opened portions of the Karakoram Highway blocked by landslides, allowing relief supplies to get to the north. Helicopters and planes were transporting relief supplies and engineers were working on restoring communication lines disrupted by landslides, said Lt. Gen. Asim Saleem Bajwa. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



LION TERRITORY
A lion on the prowl in Senegal's Niokolo-Koba National Park. This image, captured by Philipp Henschel of the New York-based research group Panthera, is a rare sighting that may become rarer still, as research published Monday shows sharp declines in nearly all lion populations in West and Central Africa. It says both regions could lose half their lions within the next two decades.
PHILIPP HENSCHEL/PANTHERA VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

REFUGEE CRISIS

World must give aid, protect 13.5 million Syrians now: UN

The United Nations said Tuesday the conflict in Syria has left 13.5 million people in need of aid and protection, including more than six million children.

UN humanitarian chief Stephen O'Brien told the Security Council that figure represents an increase of some 1.2 million people in just 10 months, and with winter fast approaching the situation is dire.

"This is one of the largest displacement crises of modern times," he said.

O'Brien said there are some 6.5 million people displaced inside Syria, including well over 1.2 million so far this year and over 120,000 who have fled their homes in the country's north since early October.

O'Brien said 4.2 million Syrians have fled the country, including an increasing number risking dangerous boat trips to reach Europe. He said over 50 per cent of the 680,000 people arriving in Europe via the Mediterranean in 2015 are Syrian.

"They have a right to seek asylum without any form of discrimination," O'Brien added. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Syrian mother hugs her children after arriving in Greece. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EU risks credibility in refugee response

The European Union appealed to member countries on Tuesday to deliver on promises to deal with the refugee emergency, warning that the EU's credibility is at stake.

More than 600,000 people have entered Europe by land and sea this year seeking sanctuary or jobs, overwhelming border authorities and reception facilities. More than 3,000 have died.

In response, EU leaders promised to share refugees from Italy and Greece, boost spending and send police, border guards and experts to help register arrivals.

But so far actions have not matched the speeches delivered at five summits this year.

"The gap between the pledges and what is on the table must be reduced, otherwise we are losing all kinds of credibility," European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker told EU lawmakers.

The Commission has now earmarked almost 10 billion euros ($11 billion) for spending on migration policy this year and next, he noted. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ugandans drink a local brew known as "malwa" at the Charismatic Club in Kampala. Anheuser-Busch InBev has agreed to pay more than $100 billion US for rival SABMiller, in large part to tap burgeoning growth in Africa. STEPHEN WANDERA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brewer bets Africans will dump local drink

BEER

AB InBev looks to cash in on continent's growth

Charles Kwara and his friends sit around an earthenware pot, sipping a frothy grey drink through long straws as laughter fills the Charismatic Club in the slums of Kampala, Uganda's capital.

The men joke that the crude brew of fermented millet known as "malwa" makes them feel both high and as if they'd just eaten. It's also what they can afford: they can drink malwa all evening for the cost of a single bottle of branded beer.

"This is cheap," says Kwara, a 47-year-old marketing manager who heads a drinking club. While they'd like bottled beer, home brew is the only option if they want a full night out. "Drinking is also a way of socializing for us," Kwara says.

The Charismatic Club, and brewers like it from Uganda to Ghana to South Africa, have something the makers of Budweiser want: potential customers.

With beer sales slowing in North America and Europe, Anheuser-Busch InBev has agreed to pay more than $100 billion for rival SABMiller, in large part to tap burgeoning growth in Africa, where many people still buy their beer from small neighbourhood brewers.

SABMiller, the descendant of South African Breweries, has stretched its tentacles across the continent, betting that Africans will shift to higher quality beers as economic development increases disposable income. It now has operations in 17 countries on the continent, with another 21 covered by Castel Group, in which it has a stake.

That foresight made SABMiller attractive to AB InBev, already the world's biggest beer maker, as it joins the list of international companies seeking to cash in on the newest growth frontier.

> **Everyone is looking for the next big golden egg: It comes down to Africa.**
> Robert Besseling

"Everyone is looking for the next big golden egg: It comes down to Africa," said Robert Besseling, a principal analyst on Africa at IHS, a global research firm. "Everyone is anticipating a boom — even though it hasn't happened yet."

The continent, with its 1.1 billion people, can no longer be dismissed as an economic backwater. Four of the five fastest-growing economies last year were in sub-Saharan Africa, and the region as a whole grew 4.6 per cent, compared with 2.4 per cent in the United States and 1.3 per cent in the European Union, the World Bank reported.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRAVEL

U.S. airports feel pinch of lower loonie

The weak Canadian dollar isn't just hurting cross-border shopping.

U.S. airports that enjoyed a surge in the number of Canadian passenger levels when the loonie was valued higher than the American dollar are now seeing the flip side of currency swings.

Low ticket prices drew about five million Canadians annually in recent years to fly out of U.S. airports.

But the Burlington International Airport in Vermont estimates the number of Montreal passengers is down about 10 per cent so far this year.

Gene Richards, the airport's aviation director, said he's surprised the drop-off hasn't been greater, adding convenience and the lure of lower taxes may be limiting the currency impact.

The number of Canadians travelling south fell by five per cent again in August, marking the 11th monthly decrease in a year. Stateside travelling is 26 per cent lower than a year ago, according to Statistics Canada. Same-day car trips are off 34 per cent while total car trips are down 24 per cent.

Bellingham International Airport in Washington State said it experienced a 25 per cent decrease in Canadian airline passengers in September as fewer people cross the border from British Columbia.

Plattsburgh Airport — which describes itself as Montreal's U.S. airport — said its business is down only slightly. About 85 per cent of its 150,000 passengers a year come from Quebec.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BORDER SECURITY

Sneaky snowbirds to get wings clipped

Snowbirds beware: The federal government will use its planned border exit-tracking system to avoid paying hundreds of millions of dollars in social benefits now going to people who shouldn't receive them due to absences from Canada.

Newly obtained memos say the Canada Revenue Agency and Employment and Social Development Canada expect to save between about $194 million and $319 million over five years once the long-anticipated system is fully in place.

Under the 2011 perimeter security pact, Canada and the United States agreed to set up co-ordinated systems to track entry and exit information from travellers.

The first two phases of the program have been limited to foreign nationals and permanent residents of Canada and the United States, but not citizens of either country.

The initiative was to be expanded by June 30 of last year to include information-sharing on all travellers crossing the land border.

In addition, Canada planned to begin collecting information on people leaving by plane — something the United States already does.

A summer 2014 memo, recently released under the Access to Information Act, says savings can be expected through "preventing abuse and eligibility fraud" with respect to the employment insurance, old age security and child tax benefit programs by ensuring Canadian residency requirements are fulfilled.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The government plans to use the Canada-U.S. border entry and exit tracking systems to identify people who should not be eligible for social benefit payments. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

market minute

DOLLAR 75.38¢ (-0.59¢)

TSX 13,699.60 (-91.30)

OIL $43.20 US (-78¢)

GOLD $1,165.80 US (-40¢)

NATURAL GAS: $2.092 US (+3.0¢)
DOW JONES: 17,581.43 (-41.62)

IN BRIEF

Tim Hortons' profit grows

New menu items at Tim Hortons — like the grilled breakfast wrap and Creamy Chocolate Chill drink — gave its owner a boost in the third quarter. Restaurant Brands International reported Tuesday that its profit grew to $49.6 million US in the quarter. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Wednesday, October 28, 2015

URBAN ETIQUETTE ELLEN VANSTONE

THE QUESTION

My cubicle is beside a co-worker I really like. But he has really bad B.O. It has been worse lately because his fiancée broke up with him. He smells like he has not showered for a while. Should I say something?

Ani Castillo

Dear Ellen,

I work in an office. My cubicle is right beside a co-worker who I really like and think of as a valuable work friend, but he has very bad B.O. It has been worse lately because his fiancée broke up with him. He smells like he has not showered for a while. He also smells like he is smoking and drinking a lot. And he even has a bad cat smell on him, like he got sprayed by a tomcat or something. Seriously, one day my eyes were actually stinging and I had to keep getting up and pretend to get coffee, etc.

Should I say something to him?

Raya, Calgary

Dear Raya,

Strictly speaking, it is not good manners to tell a co-worker that they literally stink. But if you're working with someone who reeks of rancid perfume or who repeatedly skips showering after a hard workout at the gym, you are perfectly entitled to speak up. If they are reasonable individuals who respect their co-workers, they probably don't even realize they're giving offence, and all it will take is a private, tactful word to solve the problem. If, on the other hand, they are arrogant, boorish idiots who don't care how offensively smelly they are, you can take the problem to human resources or a manager and hope that works.

In a case as extreme as this one, however, either approach might be dangerous — for you as well as your co-worker. Judging by your description, romantic rejection has pushed him close to the edge. If he feels attacked by HR or a manager about his personal hygiene, it could send him right over it.

And if he's bearing any repressed anger toward his ex, no amount of tact on your part is going to make criticism of his current state acceptable. Think about it: He's falling apart because one woman seems to have deemed him subpar as a life mate. Now he's at work, perhaps the last place he feels safe, and another woman walks up and deems him subpar as a workmate.

This doesn't mean you have to suffer in silence. It just means you have to find another way to deal with it.

The first step is to blame the cat. If your eyes are stinging, and you give them a little rub so they look even redder, and if you can manage a stifled sneeze or two, you can tell your friend you have a severe cat allergy. Usually it's not a problem (you can explain), but maybe lately his naughty cat has been sleeping on his clothes and leaving a lot of dander that now seems to be floating around the office? It's more likely your friend is passing out drunk and fully clothed each night in the filthy, hairy cat bed, then coming to work in the same outfit, but you don't need him to admit this. Your question just needs to remind him what's happening, and this may be enough to inspire him to start changing his clothes once in a while, which is a good start to the odour problem.

Admittedly, this step will be a little tricky if you own one or more cats yourself, and you have pictures of them all over your desk. But the fact is, some breeds are worse than others when it comes to dander, so it's worth a try.

The second step is to address your friend's mental state rather than his physical state. Rather than comment on his appearance or avoid him altogether, take him out for a coffee and tell him he's seeming a bit rough these days psychologically. Ask how he's coping with the breakup, and tell him you're always there if he wants to talk.

It may take a bit of effort, but sometimes good manners do. And if your support can pull him out of his downward spiral and eventually get him to take a shower, it'll be a win-win for you both.

Need advice?
Email Ellen:
scene@metronews.ca

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
metroview

Thanks to Ai Weiwei, Lego can't build a politics-proof brand

You know it as a synonym for your childhood.

Now, consider Lego: enemy of Ai Weiwei.

The star Chinese artist has never been one to go gently. And despite accusations he's softened his stance on the Communist government (he said they now have "a basis of trust" after authorities dropped his travel ban), Ai is going hard on the maker of colourful building blocks.

And for Lego, it's lose-lose.

In September, the company refused to sell an Australian museum a bulk order of Lego — Ai's chosen material for an upcoming show.

Lego's reason, according to Ai and later confirmed by a spokesman: "They cannot approve the use of Legos for political works."

That alone doesn't seem to have sparked the artist's outrage. Ai only posted about the put-down after the announcement of a Legoland amusement park to be built in Shanghai. He accused Lego of censorship and discrimination. He drew connections to its corporate interests in China, and its refusal to help the country's most famous dissident.

And Ai's fans — a bona fide international force — responded. They're donating Lego in Beijing, Melbourne and Berlin. Ai has "decided to make a new work to defend freedom of speech and 'political art,'" he wrote on Instagram.

Lego has been taking heat on Twitter, and offered a contradictory and unconvincing response: "We respect everyone's right to creative expression, we don't censor, prohibit/ban creative use of LEGO bricks." Anyone can buy as many bricks as they want, the company wrote, "We just can't offer direct bulk purchases to facilitate such projects. We hope this helps to explain things!"

Despite the "!" — no, Lego, it doesn't. "Just can't" isn't a lucid corporate policy — it's teenage speak for "don't wanna." And as Ai pointed out, the refusal gives plastic blocks far too much credit.

Lego reportedly pleased China (a lucrative market), earning praise from state-run media. But that doesn't make this a Lego win.

With his godlike pop-culture status, his global reach and compulsive use of Twitter and Instagram, Ai, himself is a force to be reckoned with. He could damage the innocence of Lego's brand. Chinese authorities make or break a Legoland project in Shanghai, but Ai's influence spans the globe. Everything that touches him turns political. And no one and nothing that touches him can stay out of it.

"The Internet is like my canvas," he told the New York Times. And whether Lego likes it or not, Ai will use its toys, and take to its brand with his brush.

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PHILOSOPHER CAT
by Jason Logan

metro LIFE

Your essential daily news

New York state to allow dogs to join humans on restaurant patios

McKean takes a bite out of food fictions

FACT OR FICTION

New TV series tackles food and diet myths with humour

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood

Michael McKean goes from Spinal Tap, Best in Show and Better Call Saul to the Cooking Channel for the new Food: Fact or Fiction, channeling a passion for food into tackling some famous misconceptions about what we eat.

Except he doesn't really have a passion for food, it turns out.

What was it about food myths that sparked your interests?

It seemed to me that there were some interesting questions about the things that we know, not even just in the world of food. In the things that everybody knows, there are a lot of things that nobody knows because they're too busy thinking that they do know it.

Some things are just axiomatic — "breakfast is the most important meal of the day." Well yeah, unless the other two are more important. The idea of eating a big breakfast is kind of a newish one.

Were there any revelations that really surprised you?

Yeah, dozens of them. There are still some mysteries which I will never get a satisfactory explanation of, like why people eat oysters in any form whatsoever. These people are insane. But I guess that's a personal taste.

I've always felt that way about eggs. Who had that idea first?

"These things that come out of the chicken here? Let's try something!"

Or the genius Italian who was the first one to say, "You know what? These tomatoes are really good, but I bet if we cooked them we could make a sauce that would be really versatile and we could just keep it going on the stove and we'd always have something to put over pasta."

Genius. We don't know who that was.

Are there any current food trends you want to poke holes in?

Six months after something was good for you, it's now the worst thing you could do. But that's fear for sale. That's something else. That's people selling newspapers with "here are the 10 things that you're eating now that will kill you within a week." That's a whole different thing.

Waiting for Guffman and Best in Show director Christopher Guest is finally making another movie, Mascots. Will you be in it?

No, I'm not. Chris calls when he needs someone like me, and this time it just didn't work out because I'm in Albuquerque an unpredictable amount of time for Better Call Saul. You know what? He'll get some ham-and-egger. He'll do fine. (Laughs) It's going to be amazing anyway because he does great work. I think everyone will be very happy, myself included.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

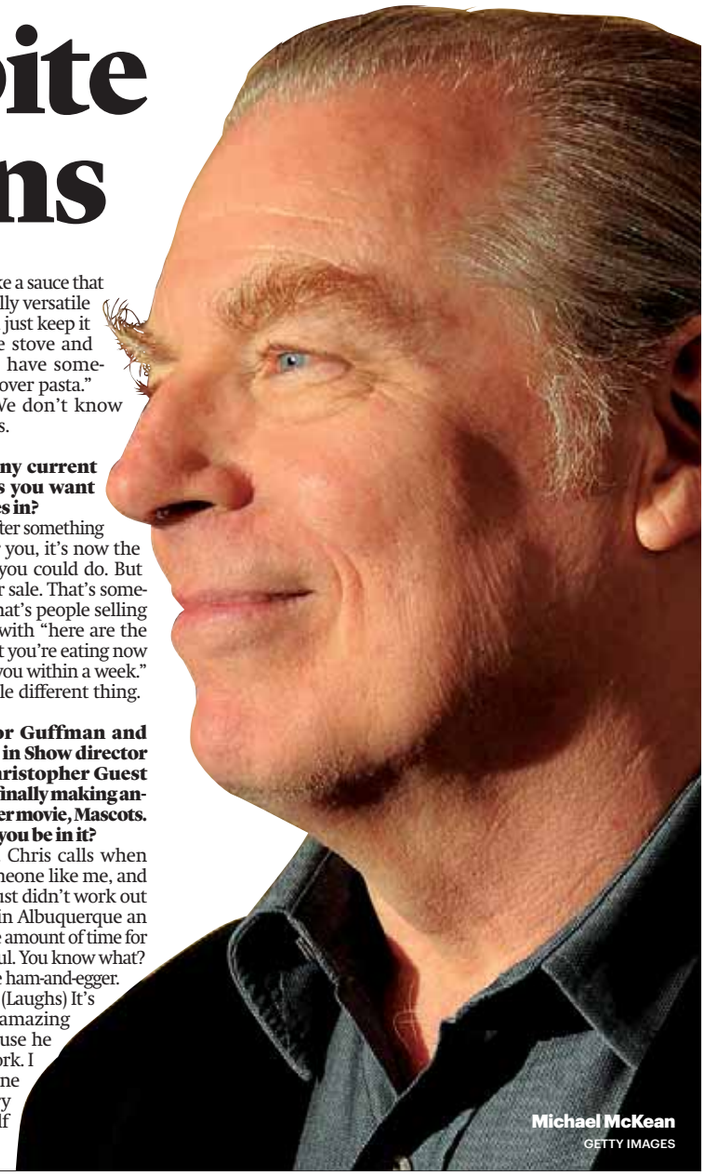
Would you say you've always had a passion for food?

No, I wouldn't say so. I was not an eater when I was a child. Between the ages of 1 and 4, I gained one pound, and my parents thought I was trying pass away because I didn't eat.

I ate peanut butter and rice pudding and Wonder Bread with jelly on it — terrible, terrible things, but it kept me alive. Until I was 30 I never gained weight. Then I guess I started eating more regular because I was making a good living.

I will enjoy food, but I'm not a real fancy Dan. I've gone to high-end restaurants and had good food and everything, but I really think if somebody makes a great steak chili or an amazing meat sauce on pasta. I'm a very easy guy in that way.

NED EHRBAR/METRO HOLLYWOOD



Michael McKean
GETTY IMAGES

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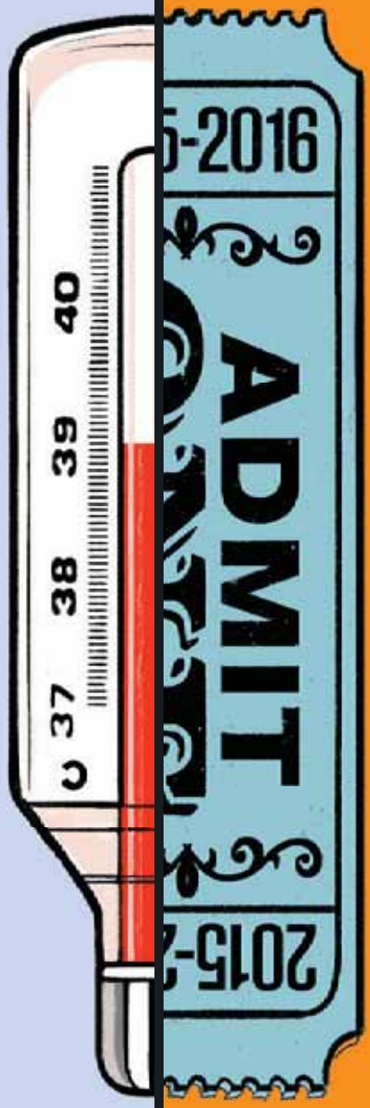

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

RECIPE EXCERPT CHICKEN WINGS: 70 UNBEATABLE RECIPES FOR FRIED, BAKED AND GRILLED WINGS, PLUS SIDES AND DRINKS

Chicken Wings: 70 unbeatable recipes for fried, baked and grilled wings, plus sides and drinks by Carol Hilker is the perfect go-to recipe book for game night, but with 70 recipes, it'll serve well in a variety of entertaining scenarios.

The book contains everything from classic glazes to lighter fare, taking the humble chicken wing to the next culinary level.

Here are two indulgences that go great together. Popular in the Southern states, Cola Wings are basted and covered with a cola-based BBQ-style sauce and go great with these waffles.

Southern-style Cola Wings

SERVES 4-6
Great with blue cheese dipping Sauce

- 4 lbs. chicken wings, halved at the joints, tips removed
- 2 cups brown sugar (light or dark)
- 2 cans of cola or root beer
- 3 onions, chopped
- 2 shallots, finely chopped
- 4 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 4 Tbsp soy sauce
- 1/4 tsp freshly ground black pepper
- pinch of salt
- 2 tsp cornflour/ cornstarch

Preheat the oven to 180 C

In a medium bowl, combine the brown sugar, cola or root beer, onions, shallots, garlic, soy sauce, pepper and salt.

Place the wings in a large, deep casserole or roasting dish. Pour over the cola mixture. Bake for 1 1/2 – 2 hours or until the juices run clear when the thickest part is pierced to the bone. Turn the wings occasionally during cooking, to ensure they do not burn or brown too much.

Remove the wings from the dish and set aside.

Pour the soda mixture into a small saucepan and heat. Place the cornflour in a small bowl, add some of the warm sauce, and mix to form a loose paste. Pour this back into the pan with the remaining sauce and cook over a low-medium heat until the sauce has thickened to the desired consistency. Toss the wings in the sauce and serve with Blue Cheese Dipping Sauce.

MAKES FOUR

Fluffy Buttermilk Waffles

These waffles are fluffy due to their buttermilk base and are fantastic served with chicken or slathered with maple syrup for breakfast (or for dessert!). As a variation, you can stir grated Cheddar cheese into the batter just before cooking.

- 1 3/4 cups plain/ all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp baking soda/ bicarbonate of soda
- 1 Tbsp sugar
- 1/2 tsp salt
- Extra-large eggs, at room temperature
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups buttermilk, at room temperature
- 1 stick unsalted butter, melted and cooled

Heat up the waffle iron according to the manufacturer's instructions.

In a large batter bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda/ bicarbonate of soda, sugar and salt, stirring well to combine the ingredients. Create a depression in the centre of the dry ingredients.

Beat the eggs in a large measuring cup or medium bowl until frothy and well combined. Add the vanilla extract, buttermilk and cooled butter. Beat until well combined.

Pour the buttermilk mixture into the dry ingredients' depression and stir rapidly with a wooden spoon until well combined. There will be an immediate chemical reaction between the buttermilk and the dry ingredients, creating a thick, rich batter honeycombed with air bubbles.

Using the wooden spoon, push one quarter of the batter onto your waffle-iron plates and bake according to the waffle iron instructions or until the steam stops rising from the waffle iron.

CHICKEN WINGS BY CAROL HILKER,PHOTOGRAPHY BY TOBY SCOTT, IS PUBLISHED BY RYLAND, PETERS & SMALL. $29.95

NORTH SIDE SINCE '95
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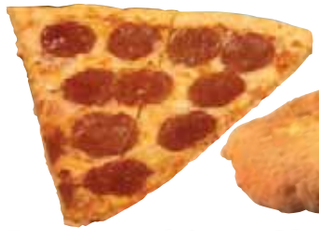
Rose Reisman EAT THIS

You know you're going to eat fast, so next time choose this not that

THIS WEEK: Pizza Pizza

Is there any type of food more beloved than Italian-inspired? With basic ingredients including tomato sauce and cheese, how can you go wrong? Pizza Pizza is a popular option for Canadians, with over 28 million pizza orders a year. Italian-inspired food fans will also love the classic panzerotti, a mouth-watering variation — think of an entire enclosed pizza stuffed with cheese, pepperoni and sauce. While a panzerotti may just seem like a pizza rolled up, it packs a lot more onto your waistline.

PICK THIS



Pepperoni & Cheese Pizza (2 slices)

Calories 480
Fat 16 g
Saturated fats 8 g
Sodium 1100 mg
Carbohydrates 66 g
Cholesterol 60 mg
Sodium 1100 mg

SKIP THIS

Cheese and Pepperoni Panzerotti

Calories 1160
Fat 40 g
Saturated fats 20 g
Carbohydrates 138 g
Cholesterol 120 mg
Sodium 2340 mg

HERE'S WHY

The fat equivalent of four servings of Penne Bolognese

While both items are made of dough, tomato sauce, pepperoni and cheese, the panzerotti is close to double the weight. The stats suggest only eating half a panzerotti, but as you are served a whole one, you'll most likely devour the entire thing! So that's double the dough, cheese and pepperoni. You're getting half your daily calories and fat and more than a day's worth of sodium. You could eat the equivalent of four servings of Penne Bolognese in fat. Mamma Mia!

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Well-rounded diet is key, as always

A diet high in vegetables is important when it comes to your health. ISTOCK

WORD OF MOUTH

Eating high quality foods and mostly veg still best advice

Theresa Albert
For Metro Canada

You knew it was coming: the news that bacon is carcinogenic along with its processed meat brethren of deli meats, smoked meats and hot dogs.

This week, the World Health Organization rocked your lunch world by placing processed meats in the highest carcinogen category (where cigarettes and asbestos reside) and cooked red meat in the second-highest (probable carcinogen) category.

Let's just be clear, this is not news. It is the confirmation of widely suspected information based upon the latest gathering of scientists with research to share with the endorsement of the respected World Health Organization.

Nothing has changed. The information is telling you that consuming these foods puts you at increased risk of cancers particularly of the colon. It does not say that biting into that sandwich will cause cancer.

To reduce your risk you (still) need to:

- Eat mostly vegetables.
- Consume high vitamin C fruits and vegetables with any smoked, cured, processed or cooked meat to mitigate the risk.
- If you are going to enjoy processed meats, you need to choose the best in class with the highest quality, lowest sugar, lowest salt amounts. One or two slices will be better (on many levels beyond carcinogenic concerns) than a sky high pile.
- If you are going to consume red meats (which this recommendation assessed as beef, mutton, pork, lamb, horse or goat), use low temperature, braised or stewed methods of cooking. High temperature direct pan frying or grilling creates more carcinogens.
- Reduce your overall amount of meat as low as possible. There are still protein, B vitamin and zinc nutrients that are beneficial and difficult to obtain elsewhere.

Theresa is an on-camera food and health expert, nutritionist and writer who loves to spread the word on food

LIQUID ASSETS

Pumpkin: Not just for lattes

Peter Rockwell
For Metro Canada

If you're a coffee fan you don't need a calendar; all you have to do is check out the chalkboard at your local café, or big box bean grinder, for the announcement that both fall, and pumpkin spice lattes, have arrived.

Think baristas are out of their gourd mixing pumpkin meat with their brew? Beer makers across Canada are doing the same. Just walk the craft beer aisles of your local liquor store.

Liqueur producers, who have never met a flavouring agent they couldn't work with, are also piecing together tipples with output from the veggie patch.

Starting with its original recipe of rum and Mexican-grown coffee beans, Kahlúa's Limited Edition Pumpkin Spice Liqueur ($14.99-$16.95) gets its autumn flavours on by adding pumpkin and other seasonal ingredients to the blend.

Drinking much like you would expect, it's a tasty way to add some punch to a martini or, if you're dressing-up as The Dude from The Big Lebowski this Halloween, your obligatory White Russian.

Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces.

Eat healthy this fall with homey veggie oven hash

HOME COOKING

This vegan and gluten-free dish is filling and delicious

As we head into crisper weather, there are classic dishes that beg to be made this time of year. One favourite is a roasted vegetables — a dish that's tasty, and full of nutrients, too.

To make it happen, use a mix of roasted vegetables for a caramelized sweetness that feels toasty and homey. Add meaty mushrooms sautéed in garlic and the trifecta of cooking herbs: rosemary, sage and thyme. A Granny Smith apple cut into tiny cubes brings just enough acid for depth, while a surprise little hero tucked into the recipe — toasted walnuts — adds texture, along with some nice healthy fats to fill up vegetarians.

Your vegan or gluten-free eaters will feel sated.

VEGGIE OVEN HASH, BY MELISSA D'ARABIAN

Start to finish: 40 minutes
Servings: 8

- 2 1/2 cups (3/4 pound) cubed butternut squash (1-inch cubes)
- Olive oil
- Kosher salt and ground black pepper
- 2 cups (1/3 pound) small cauliflower florets
- 2 cups (1/3 pound) small broccoli florets
- 1 medium yellow onion, chopped
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 8 ounces cremini mushrooms, sliced (cut in half if slices are larger than bite-sized)
- 1 Granny Smith apple, peeled, cored and diced
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh thyme
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh rosemary
- 1 tablespoon minced sage
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1/2 cup toasted walnuts, roughly chopped

Heat the oven to 400 F. Line two rimmed baking sheets with kitchen parchment or foil.

Mound the squash on one of the prepared baking sheets then drizzle with about 1 teaspoon of oil. Toss to coat, then season with salt and pepper. Arrange in an even layer, then roast until tender, 30 to 35 minutes, turning once or twice.

While the squash is roasting, mound the cauliflower and broccoli on the second sheet. Drizzle them with 2 teaspoons of oil, season with salt and pepper, then arrange in an even layer and roast for 25 minutes, turning halfway through, or until the cauliflower is golden. All of the vegetables should finish roasting around the same time. Set aside to cool.

Meanwhile, in a large pan over medium, heat 1 tablespoon of oil. Add the onion and celery and cook until translucent, about 5 minutes. Add the garlic and mushrooms, then sautee until the mushrooms are starting to get tender, about 7 minutes. Add the apple, thyme, rosemary and sage, then cook another 5 minutes, or until the mushrooms are tender (but not floppy).

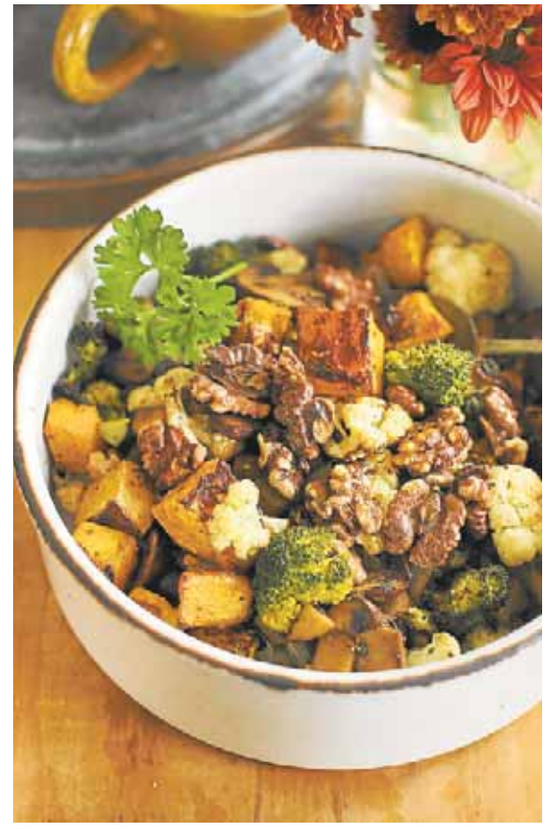
Stir in the lemon juice, remove from the heat and transfer to a large bowl.

Add the slightly cooled roasted vegetables and the toasted walnuts. Stir and adjust seasoning if needed.

Nutrition information per serving: 140 calories; 80 calories from fat (57 per cent of total calories); 8 g fat (1 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 0 mg cholesterol; 150 mg sodium; 16 g carbohydrate; 4 g fiber; 6 g sugar; 4 g protein.

Food Network star Melissa d'Arabian is an expert on healthy eating on a budget. She is the author of the cookbook, Supermarket Healthy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The caramelization process adds sweetness and depth to these mixed vegetables. MATTHEW MEAD/AP PHOTO

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The sandwich that saved my life

NEW COOKBOOK

Ruth Reichl's generous take on the classic grilled cheese

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Recipes, to Ruth Reichl, are conversations, not lectures. A good cookbook "is one that has voice." A great cookbook is "one that makes you want to cook."

Here's the curious catch. Reichl, the much-loved former restaurant critic who ran Gourmet magazine until it was abruptly shut down, doesn't like how our fascination with chefs has made us feel intimidated in the kitchen.

"I feel strongly that we've terrified people out of cooking," she declares. We've turned cooking into a performance, but "if you've enjoyed yourself in the kitchen, you haven't failed."

On the second page of her new book, My Kitchen Year: 136 Recipes That Saved My Life, Reichl owns the truth that her knife skills are pathetic.

In Toronto to promote the book last week, she visited the Torstar test kitchen and asked to make The Diva of Grilled Cheese, a recipe full of alliums that must be finely chopped.

And chop them she did, thoughtfully, without swagger. Green onions. White onions. Red onions. Leeks. She's hardly pathetic, but she's no chef.

Reichl considers three loaves of sourdough bread — one uncut and from a bakery, two from the supermarket and cut to different thicknesses. She wants to work with all three.

"See? I can't even slice bread," she muses when the too-fresh loaf gives her trouble.

Presented with four white cheddar cheeses, she nibbles away and picks a two-year-old one from Quebec

"Any cheese will actually do," she graciously allows, before tasting a fifth option — Balderson's smoked cheddar. It's new to her and something she's keen to experiment with, mindful that "it could be awful."

In her upstate New York country home, she cooks to music, usually the Blues, or sometimes to an audio book. Cooking is a meditation that centres her.

Reichl is 67. Those who've followed her story will want to know that her television news producer husband Michael Singer is 75 and working on a documentary. Their current cats are named ZaZa and Cielo. Their son Nick, 26, is studying film at grad school and living in their Upper West Side apartment.

When you think of Reichl now, you most likely remember that moment in October 2009 when you heard that Condé Nast was closing Gourmet magazine immediately.

It was even more shocking for Reichl. She was in Seattle promoting the Gourmet Today cookbook when she was recalled to New York for an urgent meeting. She didn't see it coming.

She lost her decade-long job as editor-in-chief along with her identity and sense of purpose.

She had previously spent more than two decades as restaurant critic, namely for the Los Angeles Times and New York Times. She was 61.

Engulfed by feelings of failure, fear and inadequacy, she entered "the land of grief."

She had nowhere to go, so she went to the kitchen and opened the fridge. Cooking became her lifeline. She found a community on Twitter, where she is known for her haiku-like tweets.

Six months after Gourmet's abrupt closure, at a reunion meal, the former travel editor Bill Sertl asked how she was faring without an expense account.

It dawned on Reichl that after 32 years eating out on expense accounts, she was happier in the kitchen than in fancy restaurants. Maybe, Sertl suggested, she should write a cookbook.

She lovingly calls My Kitchen Year her "accidental cookbook."

Reichl did turn her recipes over to a tester, who measured everything. But she chose to leave many of the details out to give people permission to make the recipes their own.

Here's a surprise twist — she hates writing.

"I do. I do," she admits. "I don't know very many writers that don't. I hate writing. I love cooking."

She's working through a five-book deal with Random House. She has already delivered her novel Delicious! and now My Kitchen Year. She's writing a memoir about her Gourmet years and a novel about aging friends. Another novel has yet to be revealed.

She now cooks 80 per cent of the time and eats out 20 per cent, owing to "a certain desire to keep up with restaurants."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RECIPE THE DIVA OF GRILLED CHEESE SANDWICHES

Adapted from My Kitchen Year, where Ruth Reichl writes loosely and poetically about making this grilled cheese for lunch after spotting a gorgeous male moose from her home's window during her first rural winter.

"I've tightened everything up, but urge you to use this formal recipe only as a starting point. Experiment with aged or smoked cheddar and know that the size of your loaf may change the amounts," Reichl says about the recipe.

Ingredients

- Your choice of several alliums (shallots, leeks, green onions, red/yellow/white/sweet onions)
- 1 small clove garlic, minced
- 3-3/4 cups (925 mL) loosely packed, grated cheddar cheese
- 6 slices (1/2-inch/1-cm thick) sourdough bread
- Unsalted butter, at room temperature
- Mayonnaise

Directions

Gather your preferred combination of alliums and finely chop into small heap on large cutting board. You need about 1 cup (250 mL). Add garlic and 3 cups (750 mL) cheddar. Toss gently to combine.

Butter 1 side of each bread slice right to edges. Heap as much cheesy onion mixture as possible on top of 3 slices, butter sides facing in.

Pat mixture firmly but leave it in a generous mound. Top each portion with second slice bread, butter side facing in.

Spread thin layer mayo on outside of sandwich (both sides) to help prevent scorching.

Ruth Reichl makes The Diva of Grilled Cheese at the Torstar test kitchn. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Press 1/4 cup (60 mL) grated cheddar on outside of each sandwich so when it cooks it will create a "crisp and shaggy" crust.

Heat non-stick griddle over 350F (180C) or large, non-stick skillet over medium.

Add sandwiches.

Cook about 4 minutes per side, pressing down lightly by hand and flipping with rubber spatula, until nicely browned.

Transfer to cutting board.

Let stand 1 minute before slicing in half.

Makes 3.

ADAPTED FROM MY KITCHEN YEAR

Party smartly this Halloween

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Take health scares out of Halloween with these tips

Eva Kis
Metro | New York

Halloween night's scares should all be in good fun. We've got the ingredients for making the celebration a little less frightful.

Keep an eye on the clock

Daylight Saving Time ends at 1 a.m. on Nov. 1, which seems like a good thing — an extra hour on the hardest partying night of the year is the best treat, right?

Maybe. It's easy to let the night take you where it wants, but you could end up getting sick from drinking longer than normal, or being tired enough to fall asleep on your way home on the subway, bus or cab.

While you do have Sunday to sleep off bad decisions, Monday morning will be a lot less cruel if you turn down at your usual 3 a.m., rather than when the clock says it's 3 a.m.

Rethink trick-or-treating

You don't have to give up Halloween's most hallowed tradition. If going to a club or other big event isn't your speed, organize your own party. The cocktails are easy — a little cranberry juice and anything is bloody; swap the tequila for mezcal and you've got instant smoke and spice; and instead of setting out bowls of candy, ask everyone to bring a home-baked treat. Set up all the pans and plates on various tables and surfaces around your home, and you've got adult trick-or-treating.

Be careful with coloured contacts

Don't make a decision on Halloween that you could regret forever. A recent study out of Japan found that several brands of non-prescription costume contacts contained chlorine and other harmful chemicals, likely from the dyes used on the lenses.

Contacts that don't fit your eyes can also scratch the cornea, which can cause infection and blindness. Get a prescription from an ophthalmologist, or find a different accessory.

The clocks turn back one hour on the night of Halloween, which may impact your party choices — for better or for worse. ISTOCK

Get home safely

If you're walking home and feel unsafe but can't rely on calling someone, there's an app that will let a friend virtually walk with you. Tell the Companion app (free, iOS and Android) your destination, and it can ping one of your contacts and send them a link to track you on a map.

If anything happens — you make a wrong turn, start running or the headphones are pulled out of the jack — the app turns the phone into a personal alarm system with loud sounds to scare off criminals and can even call 911. The person at the other end of the app also gets an alert.

FOOD BRIEFS

Baked flavoured Kit Kats a questionable gimmick

Trick-or-treating may not be a widespread practice in Japan, though it's not for lack of tooth-rotting sweets.

Just in time for Halloween, Nestle has introduced bite-sized versions of some of its unusual varieties of Japanese Kit Kat bars, including sweet potato and pumpkin pudding. (Imported packages of 13 treats are available for $7.99 at Sanko Trading, 730 Queen St. W.)

The flavours are strange, sure, but what's intriguing is that you're encouraged to bake these bars before eating.

When the Kit Kats are baked at 350 F, just long enough for the tops to turn brown but not burn, they resemble something like crunchy, fresh-baked cookies, though not quite as satisfying. And While the pumpkin pudding-flavoured bars do offer a hint of pumpkin flavour, there were no discernible sweet potato notes in the other batch, whether eaten hot or cold. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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MUSIC VIDEOS

Adele trumps Swift in YouTube views

Take that, Taylor Swift. In one fell swoop, Adele has reasserted her pop music dominance, with Hello, her first video in years, quickly besting Swift's Bad Blood for the most views in 24 hours.

While Bad Blood earned an impressive 20.1 million views in its first full day on YouTube, the star-studded track was no match for Adele's sepia-toned tale of regret, which racked up 27.7 million. Yikes.

NED EHRBAR/METRO HOLLYWOOD

GOSSIP BRIEFS

Just one Indiana Jones

Bad news for Chris Pratt, Bradley Cooper or any other brown-haired actor. If there are to be any more movies featuring Indiana Jones, they will — for the time being, at least — star Harrison Ford. "There are a lot of rumors," producer Frank Marshall told Total Film, but he insists they are "not doing the Bond thing where we're going to call somebody else Indiana Jones." Now can you tell Disney they should do the same with Han Solo?

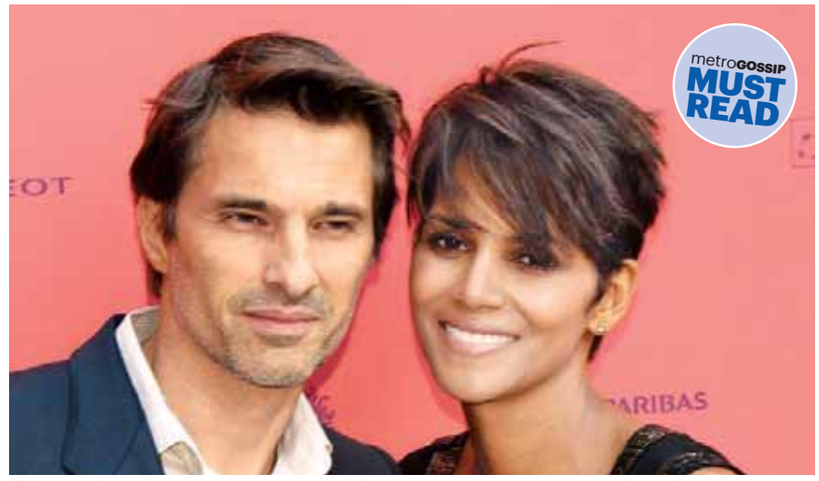
NED EHRBAR/METRO HOLLYWOOD

Halle Berry and actor Olivier Martinez divorce

BREAK UP

The two celebs are 'just very, very different people': Source

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood



"We move forward with love and respect for one another and the shared focus for what is best for our son," said Halle Barry and Olivier Martinez in a joint statement. GETTY IMAGES

Well, that's too bad. Halle Berry and French hubby Olivier Martinez are officially getting a divorce, according to TMZ.

"It is with a heavy heart that we have come to the decision to divorce," the couple said in a joint statement.

"We move forward with love and respect for one another and the shared focus for what is best for our son. We wish each other nothing but happiness in life, and we hope that you respect our and most importantly our children's privacy as we go through this difficult period."

Don't worry about any potential money squabbles, though, as the couple totes had a pre-nup.

So what was it that sent the two-year marriage over the edge? "They have a personality difference," a source says diplomatically. "They're just very, very different people. He's a very macho guy, and things just didn't jive."

Speaking of, there was that whole incident at LAX recently where Martinez used their kid's car seat as a battering ram against a photographer, which resulted in a lawsuit last week.

That suit, the source explains, prompted a fight that turned out to be the breaking point for the marriage.

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108199 (09/2015)

metro DRIVE
Your essential daily news
Electric cars will be the norm by 2026, says leading futurologist Ian Pearson

Scion scores with iM model

REVIEW

Youth-targeted Scion is not the most powerful but affordable

Jil McIntosh
For Metro Canada

If you miss your Toyota Matrix, Scion has a car for you. As Toyota's entry-level and youth-oriented brand, Scion's past offerings have primarily been offbeat and inexpensive, but they could also feel cheap and tinny.

Now there's the iM, a hatchback that's priced like a Scion but feels more upscale than what you pay for it. In this case, it's $21,165 with a six-speed manual, or $21,990 with an automatic continuously variable transmission (CVT). As per Scion's pricing structure, it comes in a single trim line, although you can add a few dealer accessories such as a premium sound system or navigation.

The engine is a 1.8-litre four-cylinder that isn't the most powerful in the segment, and you will have to plan your passing manoeuvres, since it's slow to respond when you hit the pedal hard. Still, it builds its speed smoothly under normal driving, feels substantial, and is stable at highway speeds. It includes hill start assist, which holds the brakes for a couple of seconds on an incline, a great feature for those who are relatively new to a manual transmission (and even for those who have been driving one for a while).

The list of standard features includes a backup camera, dual-zone automatic climate control, eight airbags, cruise control, touchscreen stereo, and a 60/40 rear seat that folds flat for more cargo space.

Oddly, though, while you do get power-folding mirrors, there are no heated seats, a major omission for a car that needs to get through a Canadian winter. Scion says it may eventually offer them as a dealer-installed option.

The interior is nicely finished and the cabin is roomy, with front seats that were more supportive than I expected, and good rear legroom for the car's size.

The ride is smooth, the car handles well, and it's very quiet, thanks in part to an acoustic windshield. If you liked your Toyota Matrix — or your Pontiac Vibe, the GM version of it — then this might be the replacement you've been looking for.

"There are no heated seats, a major omission for a car that needs to get through a Canadian winter.

THE CHECKLIST | 2016 SCION IM

THE BASICS

Type. Four-door, five-passenger compact hatchback
Engine (hp/torque). 1.8-litre four-cylinder (137/126)
Transmissions. 6-speed manual or CVT
Price. $21,165 (manual); $21,990 (CVT)

COOL FEATURES

- Four-wheel disc brakes
- Rearview camera
- Cargo cover
- USB port and Bluetooth connectivity
- Driver's knee and passenger seat airbags
- Heated mirrors with integrated turn signals
- Keyless entry

JIL MCINTOSH/FOR METRO

POINTS

- The iM was named the Best Budget Car by the Women's World Car of the Year (disclosure: I'm a judge).
- The iM's price is higher than its competitors' base price, but it includes items that are extra-charge on others.
- Toyota expects that by next year, the iM will make up 56 per cent of all Scion sales.

MARKET POSITION

Scion hasn't been a huge hit so far in Canada, and the company is moving it ahead by trimming slow-selling models, adding 50 new dealers, and rebranding it as "Scion by Toyota."

THE COMPETITION

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Hyundai Elantra GT
Base price: $18,549

Ford Fiesta
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Ford engineers turning it up to 11

SURVEY

Most EV drivers say they'll be lifers

A new survey by Ford suggests that nine out of 10 electric-car drivers will not go back to cars with internal-combustion engines.

Ford polled 10,000 drivers of battery-electric and plug-in hybrids. Ninety-two per cent of battery-electric drivers and 94 per cent of plug-in hybrid drivers plan to buy another electrified car as their next vehicle.

Stephanie Janczak, Ford's manager of electric-vehicle infrastructure and technology, told alternate-energy news website CleanTechnica that most current drivers of all-electric cars said they would stay electric, while plug-in hybrid owners were more inclined to consider switching to an all-electric.

The driving experience and an appreciation of clean technology were cited as the main reasons for staying electric, she said.

MORE AND MORE GEARS

10-, 11-speed transmissions in Ford's future

Ford has made a patent filing for an 11-speed automatic transmission, in three variations with differing combinations of gears, clutches and brakes. The company had already confirmed plans to launch an all-new 10-speed transmission in its aluminum-bodied F-150 pickup truck in 2016. Along with direct fuel injection, lightweight construction and downsized engines fitted with turbocharging, advanced transmissions are helping automakers meet ever-tightening corporate average fuel economy standards without resorting to electric and hybrid powertrains. To date, Ford's 10-speed automatic has only been confirmed for the 2017 F-150 Raptor high-performance truck (pictured), but should eventually spread across the rest of the F-150 truck lineup.

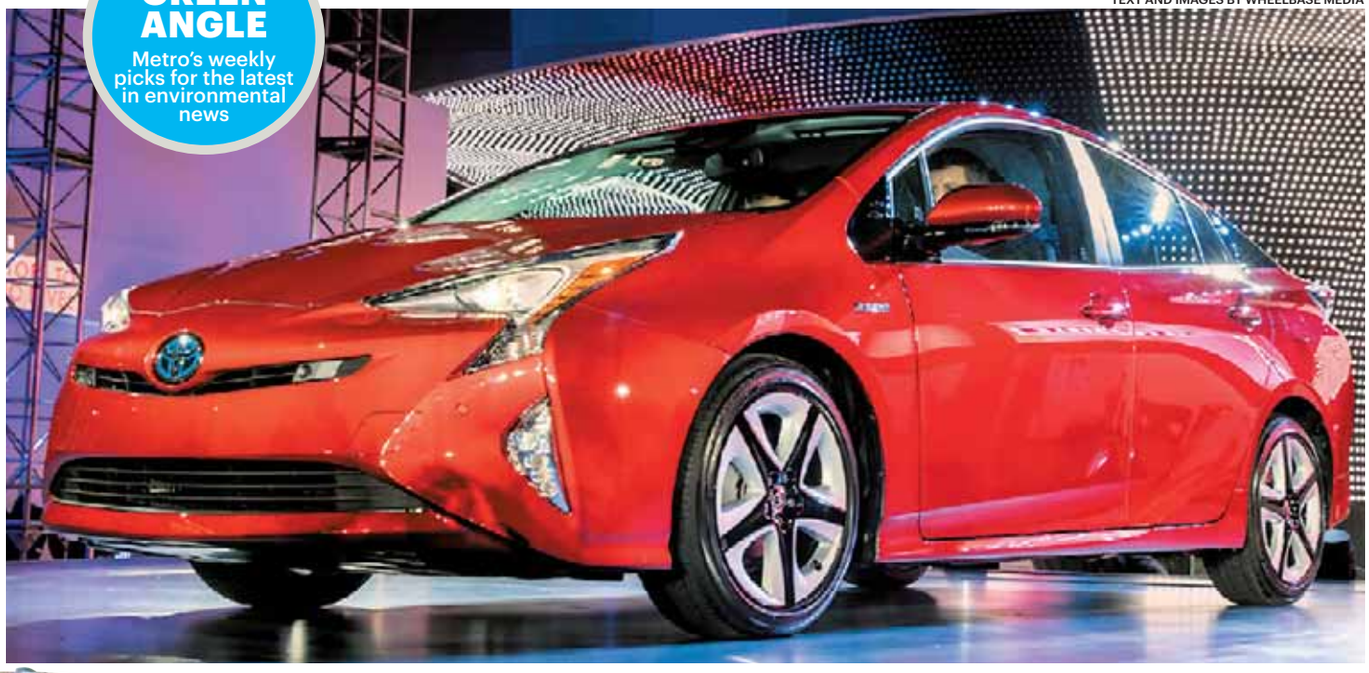
TEXT AND IMAGES BY WHEELBASE MEDIA

THE GREEN ANGLE

Metro's weekly picks for the latest in environmental news

NEXT GENERATION

New Prius boosts size, fuel economy



Less than a year after selling its seven-millionth gas-electric hybrid car, Toyota has crossed the eight million mark, demonstrating its continuing global domination of the hybrid market. Those eight million cars, the company says, have saved a combined 58 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions that would otherwise have gone into the atmosphere. The sales figure represents vehicles from Toyota and its luxury Lexus brand. Toyota meanwhile debuted its next-generation Prius in September. The car is touted as having 10 per cent better fuel economy than the outgoing model, with smaller and lighter hybrid components. It's also longer and wider than before.

CASH UP FRONT

State offers EV rebates to accelerate sales

Connecticut wants to teach the rest of the United States how to sell electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles, reports Automotive News. In May, it became the first state to offer cash-on-the-hood rebates for electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids such as the Chevrolet Volt, pictured, Ford C-Max Energi and Nissan Leaf. The Connecticut Hydrogen and Electric Automobile Purchase Rebate program sets aside $1 million US for rebates from $750 to $3,000 per electrified vehicle, on top of a $2,500 to $7,500 federal tax credit already in existence.

FUEL-EFFICIENT CAR

Sedan in the works for the 2017 Mirage lineup

After skating through the 2016 model year unchanged, Mitsubishi's frugal Mirage subcompact will be refreshed early next year as a 2017 model. Car and Driver magazine reports the updated Mirage will likely get a redesign of its frontal styling that ties it more visually to the redesigned 2016 Mitsubishi Outlander tall wagon. Also for 2017, the five-door hatchback Mirage (current model pictured) reportedly will be joined by a four-door sedan, giving it a lineup to rival its main contenders, the Ford Fiesta and Hyundai Accent.

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Bond movies still gunnin' it in style

AUTOPILOT

Her Majesty's Secret Service always good for cool rides and smash-ups

Mike Goetz
For Metro Canada

The new James Bond flick, Spectre, gets released next week in Canada and — spoiler alert — there is a car chase at some point.

But I guess a James Bond film without a car chase is like a Harry Potter film without pointy hats, or a Nicholas Cage film without over-acting.

The big car chase and resultant smash-up takes place on the streets of Rome and Vatican City and cost a reported $48 million, more than 10 per cent of the film's $403-million overall budget. So it's probably a pretty good car chase and smash-up.

Bond's ride is an Aston Martin DB10. You can't walk into an Aston Martin dealership and drive away with a DB10. Aston Martin unveiled a concept car earlier this year called DB10, to show the styling direction for the next generation of Aston Martins, particularly the coming successor to the current DB9 production car. Analysts speculate the DB9 successor will be called a DB11, making the DB10 pretty much a Bond thing.

Aston Martin made 10 examples for the film, obviously specially modified for all the movie hijinks. As part of a new agreement between Mercedes-Benz and Aston Martin, the DB11 is expected to use versions of the German automaker's powertrains, but the Bond DB10s are equipped with the English automaker's current V8 and six-speed manual transmission.

In the trailer we see Bond, played again by Daniel Craig, meeting his government-issue Aston Martin DB10 for the first time. He gets the walk-around from Q, played by Ben Whishaw, who remarks how the Aston can rip from 0-60 mph in 3.2 seconds, and how it has "a few little tricks up her sleeve."

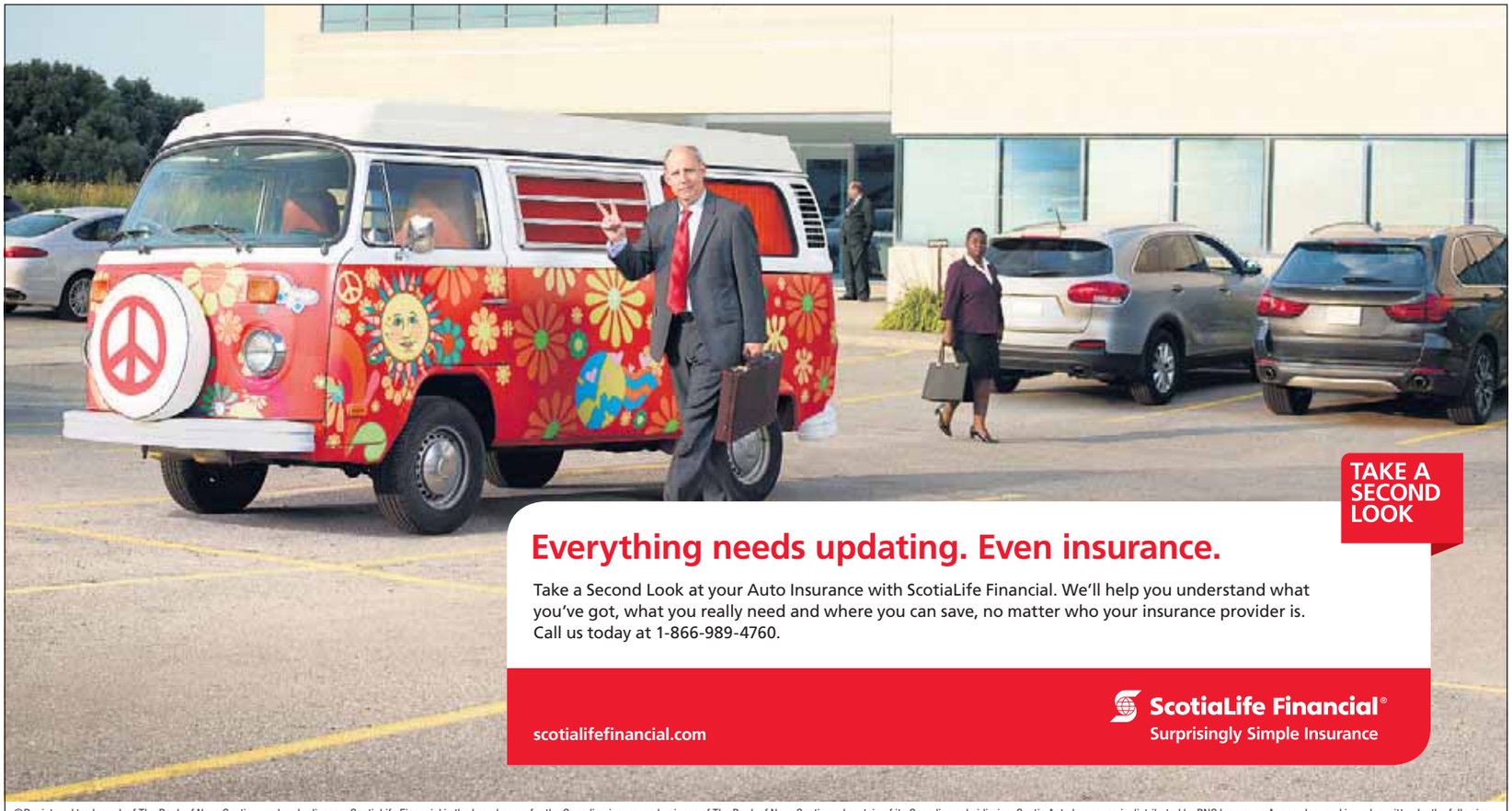
The Jaguar C-X75, seen above with actress Naomie Harris, has a pivotal role in the new 007 film Spectre. Left: The Aston-Martin and Bond (in this case played by Pierce Brosnan) is an iconic combination. JAGUAR; LEFT: ASTON MARTIN

We'll have to wait for the movie to see those tricks, but I'm guessing they're a grade up from the tricks found on the original Bond Aston Martin, that famous DB5 that Sean Connery's Bond received from Q in 1964's Goldfinger. That DB5 was famously fitted with injector seat, machines guns, tire slashers, rotating licence plate, bulletproof glass and what-not, and became the archetypical super-agent screen car.

In the new movie's big chase scene, Mr. Hinx, a high-ranking SPECTRE member and super-assassin, pursues Bond with an equally rare and exciting beast — a Jaguar C-X75.

The Jaguar C-X75 is also strictly a concept car, debuting with four electric motors, and two micro-turbine engines exclusively for charging the battery pack. While the Hinx C-X75 movie car stays faithful to the concept's styling, underneath is a racecar chassis and Jaguar's super-charged 5.0-litre V8.

While I'm generally indifferent to product placement in movies, I can really get behind the product placement that you see with all the vehicles in Bond movies. Especially when you get the double-whammy of seeing cool and exclusive vehicles in high action, and then also get to see some of them get blown up or destroyed in spectacular and creative ways. What's better than that?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3 THINGS AT THE 2016 TOKYO MOTOR SHOW

Japan's biggest single automotive showcase may only come around once every two years but no other international motor show promises the same mix of the outlandish and outright ingenious. AFP

1 A sporting chance of production

Mazda is bringing a sports coupé concept to this year's show and there's a good chance the car could lead to a new RX8 production vehicle, complete with a rotary engine. All that Mazda will say is that the design references the company's great sports cars of the past while also looking to the future.

Toyota is being far less coy about its S-FR concept. A lightweight 2+2 coupe with rear-wheel drive and potentially excellent handling, it is expected to challenge the Mazda Miata MX5 in terms of price and performance.

Yamaha, a company famed for two-wheelers, is also looking to get in on the lightweight sportscar action with the unveiling of a mid-engine concept designed by Gordon Murray. Next to nothing is known about the car, but if the man responsible for the McLaren F1 is involved, expect something impressive.

Sports car concepts, like the Toyota S-FR, are going to be big at this year's show. TOYOTA

2 Complete autonomy

One of the most intriguing cars at this year's show will be Nissan's Teatro for Dayz concept, which attempts to understand what the next generation of road users will want from a car. A complete blank canvas, it jettisons all current design motifs so that the owner can instead project his or her own personality on it, inside and out.

The Mitsubishi eX Concept is much more conventional by comparison but will showcase the company's latest innovations in battery technology and will debut an augmented reality windshield that brings autonomous and connected car features to drivers without the associated distractions.

Teatro for Dayz concept car: A car designed for the next generation of drivers. NISSAN

The Mitsubishi eX concept sports an augmented reality windshield and an electric motor. MITSUBISHI

3 The lap of luxury

Suzuki and Lexus will be showcasing luxury, as in the Suzuki Air Triser concept. SUZUKI

This year's show coincides with Lexus's 25th anniversary and the premium marque is marking the occasion with a show car that represents "progressive luxury." It will also give the clearest sign of what the next-generation LS — the company's flagship executive sedan — will be offering in order to compete with the Mercedes S Class and BMW 7 Series.

Suzuki will be showing something called the Air Triser, which is an exercise in packaging as well as comfort, and brings an executive lounge feeling to the interior of a compact MPV.

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A woman, two men and a truck

KEY TO SUCCESS

Connecting with customers and relying on their referrals

Vawn Himmelsbach

Kari Campbell, sitting in one of the company's trucks, runs the Oshawa franchise. CONTRIBUTED

Two Men and a Truck brings to mind … well, men and trucks. Yet the professional moving company was founded by a woman and is run by a woman.

Mary Ellen Sheets started the business with her two sons (hence, the name), and her daughter Melanie Bergeron is chair of the board. And there are also female franchisees.

Being a woman in an industry dominated by men, however, isn't the biggest challenge for female franchisee Kari Campbell, who runs the Oshawa franchise and in November 2013 opened a satellite office in Peterborough.

A greater challenge has been overcoming the public's perception of moving companies — everyone has heard "horror stories" of moves gone terribly wrong, of people being scammed or precious items being damaged or vanishing into thin air.

Moving, after all, is much more than the physical transport of goods from one location to another — it's about handling people's memories.

In that sense, being a woman has been an asset in a business often associated with tough, burly men. "I'm going to understand that china cabinet is 100 years old and belonged to her grandmother," said Campbell. "Being a woman on that end is a total advantage … it puts them at ease."

Campbell started working with Two Men and a Truck as a customer service rep when a friend opened the Oshawa franchise. Two years later, in 2009, she was offered the chance to become partner. She took a few days to think about it and then jumped onboard. Already familiar with the brand and its core values, she was impressed with the help she received from head office.

But Campbell knew that owning a franchise wasn't a guarantor of success. "I don't think it's just a given, especially a moving company because people have such a negative outlook on it," she says. "You have to prove yourself as an individual franchise."

She's done this by getting involved with the local Chamber of Commerce, attending events and home shows, meeting with real estate agents and even doing charity work. It has also meant getting out to as many jobs as possible to meet customers — though she can't do that every single time.

Of course, the name of the company is Two Men and a Truck, so occasionally customers want to know where the "man" is, "which is very discouraging because I have been in the industry a long time and I know my job inside and out," she says. "But for most people it doesn't matter."

Campbell knows the job so well because she's gone out with her movers — literally doing the heavy lifting — to "see what my guys are going through." She currently has 28 employees, all of whom are men except for her customer service rep and accountant.

Two Men and a Truck has only been in Canada for just over 10 years (where there are 21 franchises), and is now expanding to Vancouver, Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Saint John and Moncton.

Crossing borders with Second Cup

The sun has only just come up in Beirut, but already the honking has started. It would be easy to mistake the constant bleating as impatience, but the horns are simply placing a coffee order.

Drivers pull up near a corner in Beirut's Ein al-Mreisseh neighbourhood and idle in the street near a store that sells Arabic coffee for $.60 a cup. Along the sidewalk, dozens of men sit in multicolored plastic chairs sipping the Arab cappuccino, a mixture of heavy espresso, powdered sweetener, and hot chocolate.

This is the pure coffee culture of the Middle East, with the neighbourhood coffee shops the central meeting place for a morning chat. But beyond the busy streets in some of the once-leafy neighbourhoods around the American University or in the strings of hotels along the Corniche, the international brands dominate the sidewalks: here a Starbucks, there a Gloria Jean's, and over there — keeping pace — Canada's own Second Cup.

There are three Second Cup locations in Beirut, and over 100 in the Middle East and North Africa. Second Cup International opened its 130th franchise outside of Canada, in Manchester, U.K., late in 2014. The first overseas location popped up in Dubai's gigantic Mall of the Emirates in 2003 and the company's international growth has continued unabated since. It has franchise locations across the Emirates and in some unusual, unstable places: Pakistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and Egypt. There are as more Second Cup locations in Cairo (five) than in the entire United States (four).

There are over 100 locations in the Middle East and North Africa. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Jim Ragas, the president of Second Cup International, explains the successful growth as part of an international desire for foreign brands and the consistent delivery of that brand's promises.

"Throughout the Middle East and in other places, people are looking for international brands, and when they get them in their region they're really happy," he explains. "But there's a huge amount of competition. And so the focus has to be on executing great service and having a great product. I think we do both."

Second Cup International is an entirely separate entity ("apart from sharing a name and some recipes," jokes Ragan) from Second Cup, the company that runs the Canadian franchises. The franchise model is different, with a heavier investment required from prospective franchisees, who must have a net worth of $3-million and $1.5-million in liquid assets. In Canada, a franchisee only needs to have $120,000 in assets and $350,000 in net worth. Additionally, international franchise partners take on the responsibility of managing the brand throughout a region: there's one owner in Lebanon, one in Syria, one in Azerbaijan, and so on. The head office approves new locations, but only visits the site after the café has been built and its staff trained.

That leaves the international cafes with a decidedly different feeling than a Canadian location.

DREW GOUGH

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Ben Roethlisberger is set to return to the Steelers after missing four games with a sprained knee and bruised leg

Casey says know your role and shut your mouth

NBA

Raptors coach craves consistency from players

An NBA season dawns that is both exciting and terrifying for the Raptors: new players in key roles, a renewed focus on the great failing of last season and it is folly to suggest anyone knows precisely what will happen.

With the additions of DeMarre Carroll, Cory Joseph and Bismack Biyombo, coach Dwane Casey has the type of defensive-first players he craves and who should improve a glaring weakness: In Luis Scola he's got a savvy veteran to teach, mentor and contribute.

It is a sea change from the offensively explosive team that flamed out spectacularly in the playoffs last spring and that brings with it some trepidation about a season that starts Wednesday night at home against the Indiana Pacers.

"I trust them because I see how hard these guys are working," Casey said on the eve of their season debut. "Do I know exactly what we're going to do, what we're going to get offensively?

"No, I don't think anyone in this room does but I know one thing, this group is going to come out and compete for 48 minutes the hard way.

"To say I don't trust them? I trust them because I've been in battle in this laboratory with them the last month now."

And in that endless month of practices and practice games, Casey has craved one thing: consistency.

In working toward that goal, Casey has made it clear what he demands from each player. In a pre-practice meeting Monday morning, he doled out "role cards" to each of the 15 members of team, spelling out just what was expected of each. Defensive stopper, three-point shooter, ball-mover, rebounder, shot blocker — each player has no excuse about not knowing what's expected.

"One of my pet peeves — and I learned this a long time ago — is for a player to go to you guys and say 'I don't know my role,'" Casey said. "That is the biggest cop-out I've ever heard. Now, I told our guys, keep one in your pocket, one in your locker and if you lose the first one, here's a third one. Now there's no excuse about knowing your role."

Things can start to get testy when a season goes a bit sideways, as it invariably does for spurts. But even in throes of a predictable losing streak, the consistent message is important.

"I feel like coach Casey has been straight up with everybody in that locker-room," Carroll said. "He even gave everybody specific roles. As a player, I feel like you have to look yourself in the mirror and say, 'This is my role, and this is what I have to do to help my team win.'"

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Dwane Casey has a regular-season record of 154-158 as Raptors head coach. DAVE SANDFORD/GETTY IMAGES

49

The Raptors captured their second straight Atlantic Division title with a team-record 49 wins last season.

NBA IN BRIEF

Bulls edge Cavaliers

Nikola Mirotic scored 19 points and Derrick Rose added 18 to lead the Chicago Bulls to a season-opening 97-95 victory over LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers with U.S. President Barack Obama watching on Tuesday night.

Pau Gasol blocked a potential tying layup by James in the closing seconds. Jimmy Butler then broke up an inbounds pass intended for James as time expired.

James scored 25 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for Cleveland, but the Cavaliers came up short against the team they knocked out in the conference semi-finals last season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pistons hit the ground running by beating Hawks

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 21 points to lead all five Detroit starters in double figures, carrying the Pistons to a surprising 106-94 victory over the Atlanta Hawks on Tuesday night and ruining the home opener of the team with the best record in the Eastern Conference last season.

The Pistons, who haven't had a winning season since 2008 and finished 28 games behind the Hawks a year ago, began to pull away just before halftime. They led by double figures through most of the final two quarters and held on despite missing 20 of their last 22 shots from the field.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Cavaliers' LeBron James is in his 13th NBA season.

LYNNE SLADKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LeBron has eyes on sixth straight Finals

LeBron James understands what it takes to reach the NBA Finals. The route, strewn with obstacles and doubts, has become a personal path. He knows the way as well as anyone.

James has been to the league's showcase event five straight years and six times in the past nine. On his most recent visit, the four-time MVP, two-time Olympic gold medallist and global icon, reminded everyone he remains the game's biggest, brightest star. And now, as he embarks on his 13th pro season, James, just two months shy of turning 31, understands getting back to the Finals will not come easy for the Cleveland Cavaliers.

"This team poses a challenge for him because we have so many good players and now he's playing with a stacked deck. James Jones

"We've got a long way to go," he said.

When he and the Cavs tipped off Tuesday night in Chicago, the ending that Cleveland fans can only dream of — celebrating the city's first pro sports title since 1964 — is nearly eight months away.

Right now, however, it's still just a dream. James nearly carried the Cavs to the top in his first season back in Ohio. But they came up two wins shy of the championship. Last season's journey, loaded with injuries, trades and whispers, seems to have made him more confident a title will happen.

If not this season, then soon.

"I know what we're capable of," James said following a recent practice. "I didn't know what we're capable of going into the first game of the season last year. I knew it was going to be a long process. I still think it's going to be a process.

"It doesn't matter what we did last year, that's over and done with. We were happy how we progressed last year and how we played all the way to the end, but this is a new year."

James missed a career-high 13 games last season and averaged 36.1 minutes, his fewest in 12 seasons. There's a good chance he'll lighten his workload more this season, especially on back-to-back games or when the Cavs are playing three times in four nights. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TFC upbeat moving into unknown

MLS PLAYOFFS

We can beat anyone on any given day — Greg Vanney

Thursday in Montreal represents the biggest game in Toronto FC franchise history. The hope is that an even bigger game follows. Greg Vanney's team enters win-or-go-home territory for the first time Thursday, in a rematch against an Impact side that defeated it 2-1 Sunday in the MLS regular-season finale.

That result lifted Montreal (15-13-6) into third place in the Eastern Conference while Toronto (15-15-4) dropped to sixth. It also earned Montreal home-field advantage to open the playoffs.

A Toronto win and TFC will play the New York Bulls next in the two-game Eastern Conference semifinal. Should Montreal advance, it will face the Columbus Crew. Toronto arrives in the post-season for a first time with a chip on its shoulder. The club is clearly tired about being painted as the Richie Rich of Major League Soccer, and of its reputation as a high-flying offence with a sieve for a defence — TFC tied for second in goals scored per game (1.71) and 18th in goals conceded per outing (1.71).

"We know we have a very talented team," said Vanney. "We also know we have a young team — this will be the first time they're in the playoffs.

"But if we make the right plays and we stick together as a team and tactically make the adjustments that we need to make, then we have as good a chance as anyone in this league to win the championship, in my opinion.

> **We feel very confident about where we are, about the position that we're in, about the chance that we have in front of us.**
> TFC captain Michael Bradley

"We can beat anyone on any given day, but this league is incredibly difficult to predict, as you've seen over the course of the year and the way everyone finished. You have to make the plays and you have to do the things that you have to do or else you get beat. That's the parity of the league.

"And it has nothing to do with money. It has everything to do with lots of things — which is continuity, how long groups have been together, the situations they've seen."

In truth, Toronto is a team with decent depth and some marvellous parts — Sebastian Giovinco, Michael Bradley and Benoit Cheyrou are fun to watch pulling the strings — that is still finding its identity.

Good teams take time to gel. But given Toronto's poor history, patience is lacking these days. Toronto is probably also fed up talking about Didier Drogba, the Impact's star striker whose 54th- and 55th-minute goals proved to be the game-changer Sunday, and its poor record away from home.

TFC was 11-5-1 at BMO Field and 4-10-3 away from it. Toronto has lost its last five road games and is 0-6-2 away from home since a 2-1 win June 6 at D.C. United.

Toronto was 13th in the league on the road this season, ranking 17th in goals conceded at 2.12 a game away. On the plus side, Vanney's team was tied for second in scoring away from home, averaging 1.41 goals a game.

Bradley pointed to the parity in MLS as the main reason for TFC's road record. Other than conference leaders FC Dallas and the Red Bulls, which both had 60 points, the other 10 playoff teams ranged between 53 and 49 points.

"Everything is very tight. So going on the road can be difficult," Bradley told reporters after practice Tuesday. "But having said that, stats are for you guys.

"We feel very confident about where we are, about the position that we're in, about the chance that we have in front of us.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto will need contain Montreal Impact's Didier Drogba, right, on Thursday if they want to progress in the playoffs. GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Encarnacion goes under knife to repair hernia

Toronto Blue Jays slugger Edwin Encarnacion has undergone surgery to repair a sports hernia.

Edwin Encarnacion
GETTY IMAGES

The team said in a news release that the designated hitter/first baseman is expected to recover in time for spring training.

Encarnacion helped form one of the most feared batting orders during the regular season, belting 39 homers and driving in 111 runs.

He had a .333 average with a homer and three RBIs in Toronto's five-game win over Texas in their American League Division Series, but his production tailed off in the AL Championship Series (.227 with two RBIs) as Kansas City dispatched Toronto in six games. THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. goal machine Wambach to retire

Abby Wambach, 35, the leading career scorer — male or female — in international soccer, announced her retirement on Tuesday shortly after the U.S. national team celebrated its Women's World Cup victory at the White House.

She will play the final four matches of the national team's 10-game victory tour before stepping away from the team.

Her final match will be Dec. 16 against China in New Orleans. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Abby Wambach
GETTY IMAGES

Holland out of starting lineup as Froese returns

NHL

Toronto centre struggles in faceoffs, with special teams

Peter Holland knows Mike Babcock is right.

The conscientious Leafs centre is experiencing the fallout that comes from not following the coach's philosophies. He sat out Saturday's game in Montreal, needing to improve in the faceoff circle, on special teams and with his overall effort.

And while he worked his way back into the lineup Monday against Phoenix, Holland, like a lot of Leafs, didn't shine and didn't compete consistently enough to meet his coach's expectations.

Now, Holland and the rest of the Leafs are finding out what it takes to maintain a roster spot. Holland could be a healthy scratch again Friday when the Leafs travel to New York to face the Rangers.

Detroit Red Wings centre Andy Miele tries to take the puck from the Leafs' Peter Holland in Detroit on Oct. 2.
PAUL SANCYA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The best way for him to get back in the lineup will be through hard work and better faceoff performances, but Holland may also be left in limbo for a bit, with Tyler Bozak and perhaps Byron Froese looking like better options to the coaching staff at the moment.

Froese was sent to the Marlies Tuesday in an apparent cap-related move, with Casey Bailey coming up to replace him, but after playing with the American Hockey League team Wednesday, Froese could still rejoin the team in New York.

> **(Coach Mike Babcock) wants me to get better and at the end of the day, I have to be better.**
> Peter Holland

Holland can only worry about what he can control.

"Just work hard, focus on the little things, be more consistent in the faceoff circle, just take things one at a time," Holland said after the Leafs were put through a fast-paced, purposeful practice Tuesday.

His dip in performance comes at a time when Bozak, one of the team's top six forwards, is returning from injury. That takes away one centre spot, and Froese has reduced the job opportunities further, grabbing Babcock's attention in two games with solid faceoff skills and a strong overall effort. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

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Serves 4

Ingredients
- 6 large boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- Olive oil
- Salt and pepper
- 3/4 pound mini red, white and purple potatoes, halved or quartered if large
- 6-8 cherry tomatoes
- 1/4 cup bocconcini
- 8-10 basil leaves, roughly chopped

Directions
1. Preheat the oven to 400 F.
2. Rub the chicken thighs on both sides with olive oil and generously season with salt and pepper.
3. Heat large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the chicken, cover and cook until it browns on one side, about 3 minutes. Turn the chicken; add the potatoes. Allow the chicken to cook another 3 minutes to brown then add the cherry tomatoes; transfer to oven and roast, uncovered, until chicken and potatoes are cooked, about 20 minutes.
4. Remove skillet from pan and toss in cheese and garnish with basil.

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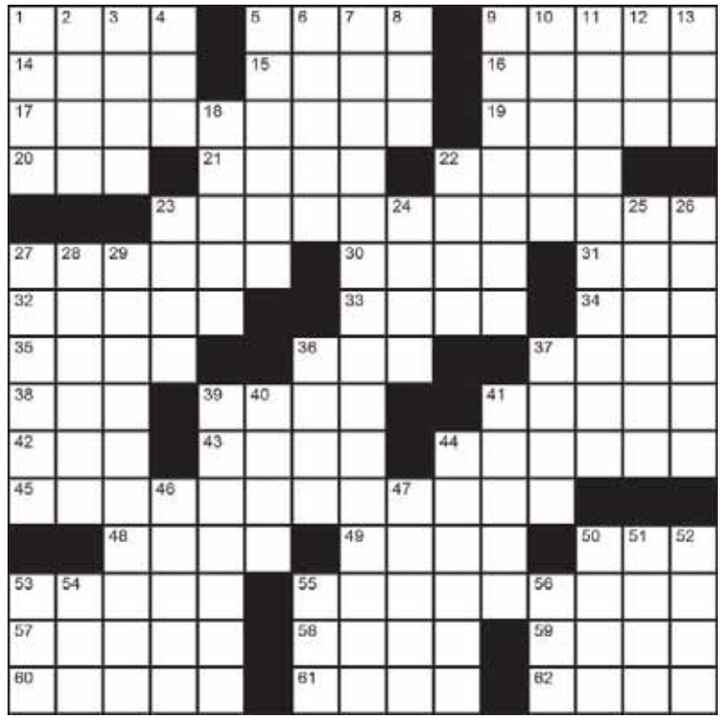

ACROSS
1. Scoff
5. Damage
9. City in Iraq
14. Take apart
15. Rhyme scheme
16. Savoury gelatin
17. Tlaloc = Aztec _ _ _
19. Providence, _ Island
20. Mr. Stallone, to pals
21. Comes with it, for short
22. Long journey
23. Canadian made products by based-in-Prince-Edward-Island company Paderno: 2 wds.
27. A bit like Caesar or Ovid or Nero
30. Botanical leaf-to-stem angle
31. Honor vs Honour ...the difference is that the first spelling has _ _ in it
32. Energy company based in Halifax
33. Litter barks
34. What the person at #48-Across did
35. Animal docs
36. MTV hosts
37. Campus mil. program in The States
38. 'Carot' completer
39. Stead
41. Racecar driver Mr. Franchitti
42. _ de Janeiro
43. Fifty-fifty
44. "Love Me _" by Elvis Presley
45. Nature lover's activity: 2 wds.
48. "The gold goes to ...me!": 2 wds.
49. Tribe on the very first "Survivor"
50. Flight watchdog org. in The States
53. Computer's chomps?
55. Count Dracula's fang imprints: 2 wds.
57. English dramatist, George _ (Contemporary of William Shakespeare)
58. Peaty place
59. Garlands of Hawaii
60. Boat poles
61. Auberges
62. Dispatched

DOWN
1. Water holders
2. Organic compound
3. Country singer Mr. Arnold
4. Aussie hopper
5. Canadian cellist Ofra
6. Sternward
7. As per transportation, Justin Bieber's Ontario hometown of Stratford originally served as a what?: 2 wds.
8. Guy
9. Casks
10. "Angela's _" (1999)
11. Creative outlet allowing a poet to perform: 2 wds.
12. Empty
13. First-rate
18. Ms. Reid of "King of Kensington"
22. Stumble
23. "You Might Think" band, with The
24. Allies foe in WWII
25. Natalie's best friend on "The Facts of Life"
26. Calgary-based energy company
27. Rock guitarist's effect
28. 666 sequel, "Damien: _ _ _" (1978)
29. Crater forming masses from outer space
36. Depilatory brand
37. Called
39. Comedian Jerry, and surnamesakes
40. _ the Terrible
41. Casual material
44. Big cats
46. Brooded
47. "You Can Leave Your _ _ _" by Joe Cocker
50. Costless
51. Similar
52. Helper, for short
53. Music pace in 60 seconds [acronym]
54. Uh-huh, fancy-style
55. Dieter's stat.
56. Mr. Pacino's

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Don't get involved in a quarrel that is none of your business. You cannot resolve it and there is a strong chance the opposing parties will get together and end up taking it out on you.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Why do you care so much what other people say about you? It's not like you to seek approval but you are craving the support of partners and colleagues at the moment. Just be careful you don't pay too much for it.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You will have to admit that you have been aiming too high. No matter, it's not the end of the world. Even Geminis get it wrong sometimes.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Your confidence is high but don't let that lull you into a false sense of security. It would be nice to believe that the world consists only of generous, compassionate people but you know it's not true. Watch your back.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You are finding it hard to hide your anxieties, but why would you want to when there are people you can turn to for advice and support? You don't have to face each and every situation alone.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Don't be taken in by someone's tale of woe. Deep down you know it is a load of rubbish. Give advice if it is asked for but keep your money.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Your number one aim is to make money. Over the next two or three days you will get the chance to earn some big bucks but you have got to stay focused.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You may be right to be angry with someone who has let you down but don't make a big issue of it. Let them know you are not amused, then let it go. Whatever you lost you will soon find something better to replace it.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Your confidence may be low but this is a passing phase, so don't get despondent. If you don't feel like being social, that's OK — find a quiet place you can be alone with your thoughts.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You have a mind of your own and if you are smart you will use it today. If you follow the crowd you could end up some place you did not want to go.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The Sun in Scorpio at this time of year can either make or break your reputation, depending on how focused and hard-working you choose to be. There will be time for fun and games later — get serious for now.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Anything that sounds too good to be true is most likely a trick to part you from your hard-earned cash. You are too intelligent to fall for it, but watch out for friends and loved ones too.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

	2			1	5		9	
		1	8		7	5		
		8				2		
8	1						4	
3				8				7
	6						8	5
		2				9		
		9	2		3	4		
	8		5	4			3	

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers.

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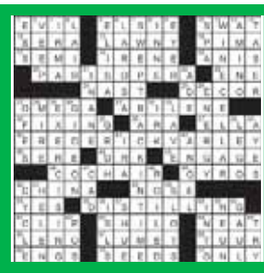

8	9	2	5	7	4	6	1	3
4	6	7	2	1	3	8	5	9
1	3	5	6	8	9	4	2	7
2	1	3	9	4	5	7	6	8
9	8	6	1	3	7	2	4	5
7	5	4	8	2	6	9	3	1
3	2	8	7	6	1	5	9	4
5	7	1	4	9	2	3	8	6
6	4	9	3	5	8	1	7	2

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SORENTO, SOUL

2015 alg RESIDUAL VALUE AWARD
SOUL

2015 IIHS TOP SAFETY PICK
SORENTO, OPTIMA, SEDONA, SOUL

Clef d'or "Best in Class" L'ANNUEL DE L'AUTOMOBILE 2015
RIO, FORTE, RONDO

5-Star Safety Ratings
More Stars. Safer Cars.
OPTIMA, SPORTAGE AWD, SOUL, FORTE, SEDONA, SORENTO

DESIGN AWARD 2015
SORENTO

"HIGHEST RANKED COMPACT MULTI-PURPOSE VEHICLE IN INITIAL QUALITY IN THE U.S." BY J.D. POWER

2015 SOUL 1.6L LX AT

Soul SX Luxury shown‡
Cash purchase price $29,144

THAT'S LIKE PAYING ONLY **$46**Ω WEEKLY

LEASE FROM **$200**Ω MONTHLY

$750 DOWN AT **0.9%** APR FOR 48 MONTHS^

INCLUDES $1,000 DISCOUNT^

2015 SORENTO
"HIGHEST RANKED MIDSIZE SUV IN INITIAL QUALITY IN THE U.S." BY J.D. POWER

2016 SORENTO 2.4L LX FWD

Sorento SX Turbo AWD shown‡
Cash purchase price $43,944

THAT'S LIKE PAYING ONLY **$66**Ω WEEKLY

LEASE FROM **$287**Ω MONTHLY

$2,300 DOWN AT **0.9%** APR FOR 48 MONTHS^

INCLUDES $500 DISCOUNT^

2016 SPORTAGE LX MT FWD

Sportage SX Luxury shown‡
Cash purchase price $40,344

THAT'S LIKE PAYING ONLY **$57**Ω WEEKLY

LEASE FROM **$249**Ω MONTHLY

$1,750 DOWN AT **1.9%** APR FOR 60 MONTHS^

INCLUDES $500 DISCOUNT^

2015 OPTIMA LX AT

Optima SX Turbo shown‡
Cash purchase price $36,564

WELL-EQUIPPED FROM **$20,964***

INCLUDES **$5,500*** IN CASH DISCOUNTS

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Offer(s) available on select new 2015/2016 models through participating dealers to qualified retail customers who take delivery from October 1 to November 2, 2015. Dealers may sell or lease for less. Some conditions apply. See dealer for complete details. Vehicles shown may include optional accessories and upgrades available at extra cost. All offers are subject to change without notice. All pricing and payments include delivery and destination fees up to $1,715, $5 OMVIC fee, $29 tire fee, and $100 A/C charge (where applicable). Excludes other taxes, licensing, PPSA, registration, insurance, variable dealer administration fees, fuel-fill charges up to $100, and down payment (if applicable and unless otherwise specified). Other lease and financing options also available. Φ0% financing for up to 84 months or up to $7,000 discount available on other select 2015 models. Discount is deducted from the negotiated purchase/lease price before taxes. Maximum $7,000 discount is offered on 2015 Optima Hybrid LX (OP74AF) only. Certain conditions apply. See your dealer for complete details. **Representative Financing Example:** Financing offer available on approved credit (0AC), on a new 2015 Forte Sedan LX MT (F054IF) with a selling price of $17,564 is based on monthly payments of $173 for 84 months at 0% with a $0 down payment and first monthly payment due at finance inception. Offer also includes $3,000 cash discount. Other taxes, registration, insurance and licensing fees are excluded. **‡Cash Purchase Price** for the new 2015 Optima LX AT (OP742F)/2015 Optima Hybrid LX (OP74AF) is $20,964/$24,764 and includes a cash discount of $5,500/$7,000 including $6,000 cash discounts and $1,000 ECO credit. Dealer may sell for less. Other taxes, registration, insurance and licensing fees are excluded. Cash discounts vary by model and trim and are deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes. ^**Representative Leasing Example:** Lease offer available on approved credit (0AC), on new 2016 Sorento 2.4L LX FWD (SR75AG)/2015 Soul 1.6L LX AT (SO752F)/2016 Sportage LX MT FWD (SP551G) with a selling price of $29,344/$21,544/$24,844 is based on monthly payments of $287/$200/$249 for 48/48/60 months at 0.9%/0.9%/1.9%, with $0 security deposit, $2,300/$750/$1,750 down payment and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $13,778/$9,586/$14,921 with the option to purchase at the end of the term for $13,483/$10,755/$9,180. Lease has 16,000 km/yr allowance (other packages available and $0.12/km for excess kilometres). ΩLease payments must be made on a monthly or bi-weekly basis but cannot be made on a weekly basis. Weekly lease payments are for advertising purposes only. *Model shown Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price for 2016 Sportage SX Luxury (SP759G)/2015 Soul SX Luxury (SO758F)/2015 Optima SX Turbo AT (OP748F)/2016 Sorento SX Turbo AWD (SR75IG) is $38,495/$27,295/$34,895/$42,095. The Kia Soul received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among compact multi-purpose vehicles in the proprietary J.D. Power 2015 U.S. Initial Quality Study℠. Study based on responses from 84,367 U.S. new-vehicle owners, measuring 244 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of U.S. owners surveyed from February to May 2015. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. The Kia Sorento received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among midsize SUVs in the proprietary J.D. Power 2015 U.S. Initial Quality Study℠. Study based on responses from 84,367 U.S. new-vehicle owners, measuring 244 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of U.S. owners surveyed from February to May 2015. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. The 2015 Rio/2015 Forte/2015 Rondo were awarded with the Clef d'or "Best in Class" by L'Annuel de l'automobile 2015. Visit www.annuelauto.com for all the details. The 2016 Sorento/2015 Optima/2015 Sedona/2015 Soul were awarded the 2015 Top Safety Pick by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) for model year 2016/2015/2015/2015. U.S. models tested. Visit www.iihs.org for full details. Government 5-Star Safety Ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (www.SaferCar.gov). 2015 Kia Soul awarded ALG Residual Value Award for highest resale value in its class. Based on ALG's residual value forecast for the 2015 model year. ALG is the industry benchmark for residual values and depreciation data, www.alg.com. The all-new 2016 Kia Sorento was awarded the "iF Design Award" for its outstanding design. The "iF Design Award" is one of the world's most important prizes for excellence in design, www.ifdesign.de. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of printing. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. Kia is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.